



Doug Ford was sworn in as Premier of Ontario in late June. Since that time he has moved swiftly, assertively, and some might say recklessly, on a number of fronts. Some of Ford's actions have captured significant media attention, while others have gone largely unnoticed. But almost all of his actions have been calculated to dramatically alter or simply eliminate programs and initiatives put in place since the last time the Progressive Conservatives held office in Ontario.

In an effort to help OSSTF/FEESO members keep track of what the government is doing and undoing, Update presents this partial overview of the new government's actions to date:

- November 15, 2018: Eliminated the Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
- November 15, 2018: Cancelled plans for the province's first Francophone university
- November 15, 2018: Eliminated the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner
- November 15, 2018: Eliminated the office of the Ontario Child Advocate
- October 25, 2018: Proposed that new teachers must pass a math test
- October 23, 2018: Cancelled funding for post-secondary campus expansions in Milton, Markham and Brampton
- October 23, 2018: Introduced Bill 47 – Making Ontario Open for Business Act. Will freeze minimum wage at

<http://osstfupdate.ca/> will back progressive labour law reforms

Local Bargaining Readiness

Need to know

If you are not a **Category 4 teacher**, you should resubmit your credentials to OSSTF for re-evaluation due to extensive revisions in qualifications over the last few years. This is especially important for Technological Education teachers due to changes with the Trades and Apprenticeship Act as well as Red Seal Occupational Standards in Ontario. Halton has 274 members who should check their accreditation.

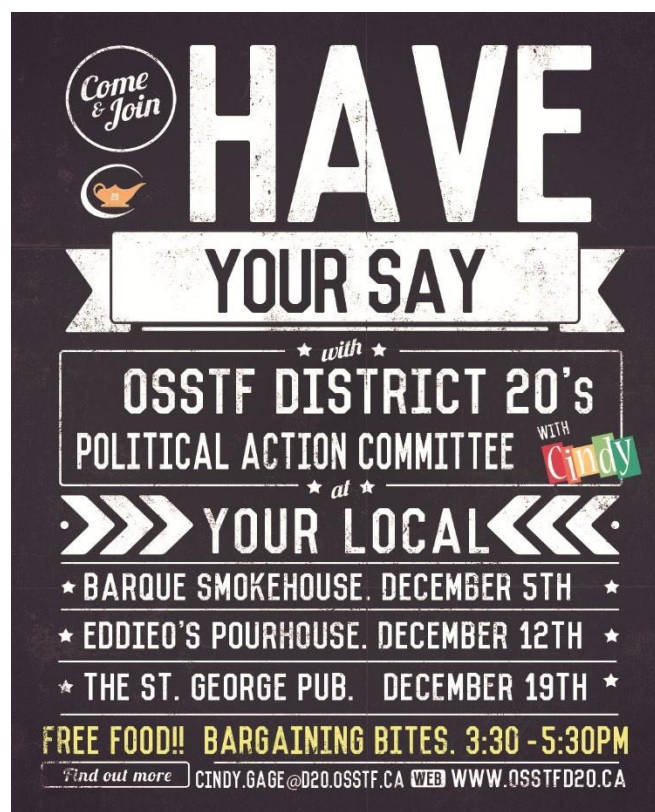
If you were on leave (parental or sick) when the EI claw back occurred for the Bill 115 Settlement, then please contact [Cindy Gage](#) to help get a remedy that you deserve..



District 20 is standing up for keeping safe spaces for our members

OSSTF Provincial has created Ford Focus to help members track changes and cuts to services in Education to be prepared for the next round of negotiations.

Click the [link](#) to be able to browse the list



Come & Join

HAVE YOUR SAY

with **Cindy**

OSSTF DISTRICT 20's POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

at **YOUR LOCAL**

- ★ BARQUE SMOKEHOUSE. DECEMBER 5TH ★
- ★ EDDIEO'S POURHOUSE. DECEMBER 12TH ★
- ★ THE ST. GEORGE PUB. DECEMBER 19TH ★

FREE FOOD!! BARGAINING BITES. 3:30 - 5:30PM

Find out more CINDY.GAGE@D20.OSSTF.CA WWW.OSSTFD20.CA

Provincial



OSSTF Provincial Executive (PE)

Our AMPA delegation is being created for this election year.

The celebration will be bigger this year as it is our **100th** Year anniversary.

- The Provincial Executive met with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, OPSBA, and determined that they have more in common during this round of bargaining and agreed to share information
- Bill 48 when passed will change the OCT committee structure that OSSTF elected members sit on to now report to the Lieutenant Governor
- Photos of commemorative displays for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Montreal Massacre) on December 6th are encouraged

2 other legal decisions to note that may have significant consequences.

- An arbitrator's decision to limit LTO positions to 2 years was decided in favour of a board, so no limit
- An EFTO member was ordered to pay costs for defence in the amount of \$257,353!

Social Work

The Social Workers are trying to ensure that they can serve the needs and are asking that we complete the form when services are requested to keep track of usage for reporting.

Curriculum Update

The Canadian Liberties Association has a hearing date for January 8th to hear their challenge on the "Sex Ed" curriculum.

Did you know that OSSTF used to help write curriculum in the 1950s!

Cannabis

If a member has been prescribed cannabis and their treatment requires medical accommodation in the workplace, they should contact their bargaining unit for assistance in supplying their employer with the appropriate medical documentation so that their limitations and restrictions can be accommodated.

Renters

The occasional teachers, who were renting space in our office, have decided to move to a new location. We have lots of space in our Teachers' Bargaining Unit office. If you would like to meet and plan with colleagues, then you can use your space to accommodate your professional needs.



President

[Cindy Gage](#)



The history of Bill 160 is important for teachers to remember or to have a refresher.

When Mike Harris was Premier, he introduced similar policies that attacked workers. When he did this OSSTF supported our friends in labour, OPSEU, Nurses and the OFL Days of Action. OSSTF reached out to its members and stressed the important of forming a Communications Political Action Committee, CPAC, in every district and had districts make this a budget priority. This communication was instrumental in the two years of engagement with members to deal with the attacks on education, cuts and policy changes that resulted in cutting prep time, and attempting to use non-certified teachers which would have resulted in the cutting of 10,000 positions. Teachers voted 84.2% in favour of political action and went on strike to protect education. This lesson was learned, and OSSTF is preparing and engaging members for this round of negotiations.



Health and Safety

The multisite Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) has ended and members are being selected from schools to do inspections. Please make sure that you know who your rep is in each of the schools so you can report issues to them such as a problem with the facilities.



A fire was set in the boys bathroom at GDHS and put out by the School Police Liaison officer. The students were outside in the cold for about 35 minutes.

Member Needs: 17 members on STIP, 23 on LTDI and 4 on WSIB

Member Protection

Jim Young



The Collective Bargaining Committee has been created to be ready for our upcoming negotiations.

Reminder that you have 11 fully paid sick days during a school year and 120 days paid at 90% of your salary.

Please check your ESS to determine your 12-month rolling count for the Attendance Management system.

Tip: [The Joint Critical Path Committee met in order to prepare for staffing this year represented by Cindy Gage, Jim Young, Steve Spisak and James Caldwell.](#)

There are two grievances still in process.

Political Action

Labour Dinner



Sherri Kerr received the Health and Safety Award at the Oakville Labour Council Dinner for all of her hard work over the years with Health and Safety.



To register, please email your Bargaining Unit President with the number of Children (including ages) and adults planning to attend.

Annual OSSTF District 20 Children's Holiday Party



Who:
Children 11 years old and under

When:
Friday, December 7th, 5 - 8 pm

Where:
Lil' Monkeys
3250 Harvester Rd.
Burlington ON

Why:
Celebrate the Holidays and a Fundraiser for the Partnership West Foodbank (Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items.)

Includes a visit from Santa for pictures, treats, pizza and lots of play time.

Coldest Night of the Year



All members are welcome to join us on February 23rd 2019 for a walk (not sleeping out side) for charity. Please contact [Cindy Gage](#) if you are interested in attending.

Communication

[Ginger Major](#)

We now have all three platforms to help share important information for our members. Pick your preference to keep yourself updated as we begin planning for bargaining.



Rights and Equity

The Advocacy to Activism Workshop had to be cancelled due the lack of presenter's available from Provincial office. However, alternatives will be provided by the committee to be able to put our activism ideas into practice within our local.



Events

Add the dates to your Google Calendar to help keep you an active member of our union.

DATESTONOTE

Remembrance Day Honoured

Thank you to all the members that participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies in our region to commemorate 100 years since the Great War honoured with a wreath from our local.



Communications and Political Action Conference, CPAC

Cindy Gage, Colin Post, Ginger Major, Art Hilson and Ramiel Nassara attended the CPAC conference and learned about Doug Ford's patterns and key staff who also worked with Harris or Harper.



The knowledge will help prepare for bargaining in the current political climate.

15 and Fairness



Teachers were disappointed that wage minimums will not be raised until 2025 affecting our students and their families. Thank you to all those that helped with this collaborative effort.

OTIP Retirement Workshop

Due to high demand we have opened another workshop for December 5th at 4:30–7:30 p.m. at the OSSTF office in Burlington. If you are interested, please register online at <https://www.otip.com/events>.

Women's Day Dinner

Our members will again support the Women's Day dinner in Burlington and the work being done in Afghanistan by colleagues to support education in this war torn region.

Socks



We are collecting socks for the Women's shelter in all sizes to help support the basic needs of Women and their families in crisis. (Last year we collected feminine hygiene products.)



Council Meeting Dates

December 11th
January 22nd
February 19th
March 19th
April 16th
May 14th AGM
June 4th

Bargaining Bites

December 5 Burlington
December 12 Milton
December 19 Gtown

December 7th will be our 7th annual Children's Party from 5 – 8 pm.



February 23rd Coldest Night of the Year

Women's Day Dinner will be March 6th

Parenting Workshop
April 24th

OTIP and Educators Retirement/Financial Workshop December 5th, April 25th 4:30 – 7:30

Second annual Family Fun Picnic will be on May 31st at Lowville Park.

June 11th will be the President's Celebration Dinner for retirees, union service recognition, mentorship and award winners.



Who to Contact?

OSSTF District 20

980 Fraser Drive, Unit 211
Burlington, Ontario, L7L 5P5
(905) 332-1228



OSSTF District 20 updates can now be found on the District Website, Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.



If you have any concern in your workplace, please let your local branch representative know and they can help guide you through the process.



We have been supporting members in the Province for 100 years.

Full Release

President	Cindy Gage Cindy.Gage@d20.osstf.ca
Member Protection	Jim Young Jim.Young@d20.osstf.ca
Health and Safety	Doug Thompson Doug.Thompson@d20.osstf.ca

Executive

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Speaker	Judy Wedeles Judy.Wedeles@d20.osstf.ca

Branch Representatives

Abbey Park	John Maras
Acton	Daryl LeBlanc
Aldershot	Ramiel Nassara
Burlington Central	Angelo Mihalos
Craig Kielburger -	Scott Nicholson
Dr. Frank J. Hayden	Jennifer Plens/Kristen McCoy (Co-BPs)
Garth Webb-	Jennifer Patterson
Gary Allan	Jennifer Hicks
Georgetown	Eugeni Nikolov/Kyle Stewart (Co-BPs)
Iroquois Ridge	James Caldwell,
Milton -	Jamie Newman/Rod Whate
MMR-	Rory Papin
Nelson	Kelly McCarthy/Kim Kerr (Co-BPs), Sheila Ross (Alt)
New St./Itinerant	Cindy Consentino
OTHS	Rob Sargent
Robert Bateman	Paige Murphy/Colin Post (Co-BPs)
Syl Aps	Sarah Jane Black(leave)/Scott Wharram
TAB	Judy Wedeles, Jolene Schmidt (ALT)
WOSS	S. Marciniak/N. Bhabha (Co-BPs), B. Hussain (ALT)