

OSSTF DISTRICT 20



November Newsletter, 2020

Dear Members

For those teachers who have no time right now here are a few highlights graphically and more information can be found by following the appropriate links on the following pages.



Wellness

Members shared their happy moments this month!

'One positive thing from today was that I finally finished marking a full class worth of assignments!

Andrea Bonilla

The most positive part to my day was a well needed walk with my students by the lake on this gorgeous, breezy fall day....full of promise and possibility. Gratitude.

Tammy McLeod-Casey

One positive thing is that I got to see smiles on all my department's faces because everyone is finally getting in control of all their courses.

T. Faulhauser

One positive thing is enjoying the wonderful weather these last few days and an upcoming long weekend.

Ed Ching

One positive thing: empathetic colleagues who are willing to listen.

Katie Attwell

I helped a colleague with an issue she was having in creating her classes in Markbook.

A. Asad

One good thing is that I think I am making some really good progress in creating similar student teacher relationships with my students as I have in past years. It's been a struggle as there's usually good progress within the first week of a semester. However, I am thrilled about this nonetheless.!!

Katherine Capron

New Safe Spaces

An new opportunity brought to you by the R&E Committee for members to meet and discuss Ableism and Mental Health

HIGHLIGHTS CHROMEBOOK STYLE

As we near the end of the Quad...



2 Course Teacher

1 Course Teacher

There are so many changes...

42!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Got it!

Pause on TPA's



We are continuing our Equity work



In Halton

Beware of New Add-on for Google Meet



Students may be still for 2 ½ hours concentrating on your lesson!

Marking



Marathoner



D20 is still helping the Veterans in 2020 even if we can't lay our wreath in person due to Covid-19.



D20 donated to the



local food banks



Branch Reps in Solidarity



with striking colleagues



OSSTF

Upcoming Dates

November is Indigenous Month

Our District supports Indigenous communities and has recently made donations in their support.



Orange Shirt Day

Next Council Meeting
Nov. 17th, 2020

Transgender Awareness Week
November 8th-14th

Please wear **Purple** on Friday, Nov. 13th to support those who have suffered violence with Halton Women's Place.

Committees

BIPOC will meet on Nov. 18th between 4 – 5 pm. Please contact the group if you are interested in attending.

Please click here if you are interested in joining the [LBGTQ2+](#) committee. The next meeting will be Nov. 19th at 7 pm.

If you are interested in forming an Ableism group to discuss mental health or ability concerns, please plan on attending an exploratory session by following this personal zoom [link](#) on Monday, Nov. 30th at 4 pm to determine interest by using the password Ableism.



PROVINCIAL OFFICE UPDATES

Our D20 liaison from the Provincial Executive, Dave Warda, shared updates with your Branch representatives.

Highlights

- The Provincial Executive are extremely disappointed in the decision of the Chair of the Labour Relations Board when he dismissed our health and safety case without even hearing the evidence. The Labour relations Board has told us to bring each individual case of a violation of health and safety precautions forward, one at a time for adjudication.
- OSSTF has reissued a call for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and gender-based Violence in partnership with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).
- We have significant concerns over the changes to move to standardized online testing for students without yet naming a platform.
- OSSTF will be using 'Safety for all' as their primary messaging theme to continue to push for the safe return to schools for all.

LOCAL D20

Our released members are here to help...



President

Cindy Gage



Staff Officer

(Member Protection)

Kelly McCarthy



Staff Officer

(Health and Benefits)

Doug Thomson

- Congratulations to Alexiis Stephen who was chosen by OSSTF Provincial to be part of a curriculum writing group
- If you are an OTIP member, you and your family members who will be attending school during the 2021-22 academic year may be eligible for a \$1500 bursary, this is the [link](#)
- OFL's Letter to declare racism, including anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, a public health crisis, was championed by your Executive and Council. Here is the [link](#) to learn more about this initiative.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

How can you participate?

- We are looking for members to be part of the hiring committee. We need two members at large, one member who identifies as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, or two-spirit (LBGTQ2+), and one member who identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Colour (BIPOC).
- The Rights and Equity Committee is looking for volunteers to send a photo or a 20 second video clip to be included in our diversity project (all abilities to be recognized if willing to self-identify) by contacting the [Rights & Equity Committee](#) for more information
- Participate in our book club (details to follow)

BIPOC

The Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) Committee endeavors to create a safe space for Indigenous and racialized union members to express their voice, opinions and unique experiences to the union executive in an effort to bring attention to and change the embedded systemic barriers and discriminatory practices that impact BIPOC members.

Please contact either [Alijcia Gibson](#) or co-chair [Eric Keunne](#) for more information and opportunities for involvement.

LGBTQ2+



Lesbian, gay, bi, pan, trans, queer, two-spirit or questioning? District 20's LGBTQ2+ Committee needs you!

Our Committee's mandate is to raise awareness of LGBTQ2+ issues in our Union and to provide a safe space for queer and trans members to network, build capacity for queer and trans mentorship, provide affirming support to those experiencing trans- and/or homophobia, celebrate our queer and trans colleague's accomplishments, and to share strategies to help support our queer and trans students.

Identifying on the LGBTQ2+ spectrum is a requirement to join; outing yourself is not.

Please sign up for our next meeting via our Google Form: <https://forms.gle/rexHxtF5Wd1HZ9RN7>.

Note: **Allies** are welcome to join the [Rights and Equity Committee](#) to help with initiatives.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

- Teachers are able to apply for PD funds. The applications are on the [District Website](#)
- There is also going to be an upcoming survey that the PD committee will be putting out to members.
- Coming soon there will be a book club

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- New Checklists are available for Health and Safety reps in the schools to help deal with Covid-19 changes.
- There has been a work refusal due to the prevalence of Covid-19 in a school in Scarborough under Part 5, Section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ontario with the belief that the work is likely to endanger them or someone else.
- Please take note and let your H&S rep know if any classroom has not been cleaned or sterilized to ensure we are meeting all of the safety protocols.
- Face shields have a recommended life span of 15 individual uses or 2-3 weeks. As a result, school board shipments will contain two (2) face shields per month per staff member.

274 HIGHLIGHTS

An interim policy is in place since the revocation of Reg. 274/12 was revoked on October 29th to allow Boards to access 'educators that best meet their needs.' The new PPM does require that one of the teachers interviewed have 'the most seniority on the board's long-term occasional teachers list who has applied to the position.' In addition, under the qualifications and merit section, there is allowance for 'formal qualifications and credentials' as well as 'additional qualifications, including lived experiences, skillsets, backgrounds and varied work experiences' to ensure the maintenance of the best program possible. The Boards should 'ensure diversity on hiring panels by including individuals who have the knowledge and experience to reflect the needs and interests of communities. This initiative even adds that Boards should consider Special Programs under the Ontario Human Rights Code to address the effects of systematic discrimination. However, there are parameters to ensure that there is not a conflict of interest in hiring concerning nepotism or patronage which was one of the reasons that the regulation came into being in 2012.

Let's remove barriers together!

Who to contact if you ever need assistance?



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.



Full Release

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Branch Representatives

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[Acton](#)

[Aldershot](#)

[Burlington Central](#)

[Craig Kielburger](#)

[Dr. Frank J. Hayden](#)

[Garth Webb](#)

[Gary Allan](#)

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[Nelson](#)

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John Maras/Janet Scott

Daryl LeBlanc

Ramiel Nassara

Angelo Mihalios/Steve Spisak

Kevin Miller and Andrea Hyde

Jennifer Plens/Kristen McCoy (Co-BPs)

Jennifer Patterson

Jennifer Hicks

Eugeni Nikolov/Kyle Stewart (Co-BPs)

(Home school or executive member)

James Caldwell, April Valera (Co-PBs)

Jamie Newman/Rod Whate

Rory Papin/Alex Skene

Lisa Ashenhurst

Nicole Jarvis

Rob Sargent, Cliff Murphy

Sarah Jane Black

Judy Wedeles, J. Schmidt (Caroline Clarke)

Jeremy Hodgson

S. Marciniak/N. Bhabha (Co-BPs), B. Hussain (ALT)

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 over 100 years.