

OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' BARGAINING UNIT

OSSTF DISTRICT 17 - SIMCOE

Unit 6 – 51 King Street Barrie 705-726-1722 www.d17otbu.ca Email: d17otbu@gmail.com

YEAR END NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

2015/2016 EXECUTIVE

Jeff Parton	(Prez)	705-428-3537	jeff.parton@d17.osstf.ca
Chris Petersen	(1 st V President)	416-262-5994	cpetersen.oct@gmail.com
Paul Cudney	(2 nd V President)	705-445-1488	pcudney@hotmail.com
Kate Dewey	(3 rd V President)	705-361-1918	dewey.kate@yahoo.com
Ben Andrews	(Chief Neg/GO)	705-737-2729	benjaminandrews@mac.com
Marcia D'Antimo	(Treasurer)	705-436-4835	marciadantimo@sympatico.ca
Deanna Nelson	(Sec. /CBC)	705-322-6360	ddnelson05@gmail.com
Richard Jessome	(CBC)	705-730-3296	richjessome@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Nonvoting positions

Kate Dewey	(Health & Safety + Human Rights)
Deanna Nelson	(Status of Women)
Chris Petersen	(CPAC & Communications Officer)
Ty Walkland	(Educational Services Officer) 416-262-5157 tywalkland@gmail.com

Dear Member:

Hopefully your school year has been a rewarding and satisfying experience. Casual work was up slightly at +2% but members have informed me that May & June were again somewhat slow this year. LTO's have decreased marginally compared to SEM II of last year in both number of days taught and actual persons involved. Hopefully you are enjoying all your summer activities to the hilt.

Please read this newsletter! Even though it's the end of the school year, there is still very important information within and the bottom line is it's your bank account and career we are talking about here. However, paramount to all of this, is one important thought; SCARRI won't be jolting you out of bed at 6:00am until September, so enjoy those sleep-ins.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's OTBU AGM was held on May 21st with 48 members were present this year, the most I've ever seen at an annual meeting. We capped the night off with a great meal up at good ole "**Crock and Block**" restaurant in Barrie. Peggy Stevens was the chairperson again this year, running a busy meeting which had some Constitutional and Action Resolutions. Several items were discussed especially Negotiations which was held "in camera". Also presented by Treasurer Marcia D'Antimo was next year's budget which was subsequently accepted. Our Executive saw some minor changes as Ty Walkland is no longer 2nd VP but is looking after the Educational Services post. Paul Cudney has moved back into that 2nd VP spot in his place. Current Health & Safety officer Kate Dewey is now a voting member assuming duties as 3rd VP.

COMMUNICATION

Our membership is highly transitional in nature as we have mentioned countless times over the years. A lot of you do not have permanent work sites, therefore, communication with our members is our most critical element in all we do. The best way we have found is by direct email and, to that end, we have approximately 95 % of our member's personal email addresses, but we would like to have 100%. Please forward your personal email address to Communications Officer Chris Petersen at d17otbu@gmail.com.

CONTRACT

(Collective Agreement)

With respect to our current contract, is the maintenance of that binding document. We do this by ensuring that our employer follows the collective agreement's legal intent. If you know of violations in any area, please let us know. For example; the assigning of extra duties above the actual teacher's timetable such as illegal on call coverages and pay discrepancies. Contact Ben Andrews by email or text immediately (for recording purposes) of any problems associated with "contract maintenance" issues.



EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Because Casual Occasional Teachers and LTO's are not contractualized, one can apply for Employment Insurance in off months. Some things to note about EI are:

- Please use the following codes from HR for this year's EI applications. For summertime applications: **3511012015201506**, December applications: **3511012015201512** and March Break applications: **3511012016201603**.
- One can start their application by logging on to www.servicecanada.gc.ca going to On Line Forms and Services.
- Your obligations are; you have to look for work; be available for work; and be willing to accept other related occupations. These have been drastically tightened up lately.
- There are minimum hours that are required for each application. A day worked for the Board has changed back to 7 hours per day. If you are a new applicant to EI you will need more hours than a repeat recipient. Check with EI to determine your hours needed as it varies by region and the unemployment rate in each particular area.
- To qualify for EI Maternity/Paternity benefits the minimum hours required are 600.
- The eligibility period or the period one collects for are dependent on your hours worked toward the claim and, again, the regional unemployment rate.
- Pensioned teachers can also receive EI benefits.

GRIEVANCES

We have had a significant number of grievances this year but most were thankfully of a minor nature, but there were indeed serious ones. All but a few have been resolved by our judicious Grievance Officer Ben Andrews. Most were related to Reg 274, missed assignments, and pay issues.

NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations are on-going as we speak with countless Bargaining Bulletins being sent out to you from our Provincial counterparts over the last while. Bill 122 is now firmly in place and directs the Government and the Educational Unions to bargain centrally, then followed by a local component. The Bill is clearly flawed and at this stage of the game the Government and the Ontario School Board's Association are firmly digging in their heels. Certain items are to be provincially negotiated while others will be left up to us and the School Board regarding issues that relate to local issues. We have met 5 times already despite recent Province wide local strikes and Elementary panel job action. All indications are for a very rough start to the school year in September. You will be updated throughout the summer, but please have your finances solidly in place over the course of the summer just in case.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

OSSTF District 17 OTBU members get up to 50% off home insurance

You will enjoy big savings when you purchase both your car and home insurance from OTIP. It's just one more reason why it feels good to belong.



Call 1-888-892-4935 or visit
otip.com/OSSTF17-OT to complete a quote

This is a one-time discount (of up to 50%) and is only applicable to new multi-line home and auto policies underwritten by Traders General Insurance Company, part of the Aviva Insurance Company of Canada. OTIP and Aviva have the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Must reside in Ontario to be eligible for this discount.



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OTIP is a proud partner of *Edvantage*

OTIP LOYALTY PROGRAMME

We were approached this year by the Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan to essentially support them through what's known as a loyalty programme. By us supporting this teacher owned insurance company we would be helping get the word out about their services. They are wholly owned by all the Teacher/Support Staff unions in Ontario. By us supporting them, they will in turn provide a stipend to us that we can use locally for members, from everything such as PD funds, charity donations, and other monies to assist the membership. You will see the use of their logos, banners, and ads from time to time on our communiques etc. They are highly competitive so we would, of course highly recommend checking them out. See the ad on the previous page.

OFFENCE DECLARATION

Your Offence Declaration should have been updated before June 15th as required by the Board. If not filed prior to September's school start date, you will obviously be disallowed teaching privileges in any Simcoe County school and possible removal from SCARRI.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We do have funds available again for PD and they have substantially increased with our spring budget. So if you have something that is PD based please contact our Executive and we can fill you in on what qualifies for these funds and the actual amount of funding available.

REGULATIONS 274/12 & 148/15

Nothing has changed regarding the Reg other than it is on the negotiations table at the Provincial level and word has it OPSBA wants it **GONE**.

SCARRI

There is a web based version of SCARRI known as "**SCARRI**" **FX**. It can be accessed from the Board's web site or directly at www.scarriscdsb.on.ca. If you go in through the Board's web site a person can change their available schools there. One can also check the number of days that one has taught over the year if you are unsure (i.e.: for Pension restrictions or Employment Insurance purposes). One can also go in to the staff portion of the web site and verify jobs taught in the Verification Area (bottom right).

Another issue over the years has been unfilled jobs. The Board and Contract Teachers obviously have concerns with this problem and by having unfilled vacancies our members miss out on remuneration.

STRIKE PAY

If job action in the fall dictates a full strike situation there will be strike pay even for Occasional Teachers. Contract teachers get \$55 per day and that would also apply to full semester LTOs. After 11 days that jumps to \$65 per diem with an additional \$5 per day for each dependent. Casual OTs working less than 2 days per work on average will get 2 days paid at \$55 per day (\$110 in total). Whereas, OTs working over 2 days a week on average will be paid at the regular full strike pay of \$55 for every day of the week.

SUPPLY TEACHING

A GENERAL OBSERVATION

If you've had a bad day or two while you've been teaching this past year, please consider the following:

- *We have the availability of a well-stocked library.*
- *The use of workout facilities that are usually accessible.*
- *One can choose when one works.*
- *The majority of times we only work a total of 3 hours 45 minutes per day in the classroom.*
- *We are surrounded by energetic and usually optimistic kids.*
- *Other than bus duty, no outside yard duties compared to our Elementary compatriots (i.e.: standing in the middle of February on the NW side of a school playground with winds howling down from Nunavut at 90+ km/hr.).*

- Most times a long lunch period that is solely yours to attend a well-stocked cafeteria, or sometimes enough time to go and procure sustenance.
- We now have full computer access to surf the web and check our personal emails.
- Compared to the corporate world, we get a very respectable part time wage.

JOBEN VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Weddings, Special Event videos.

Documentaries, Editing, Titling, Film, Slide, and/or Photograph

Conversions to video etc.

Ben Andrews: 705-737-2729 benjaminandrews@mac.com

WEB SITE

Our OTBU web site is located at www.d17otbu.ca. Please take time to check it out, as there is a lot of information on the site such as: our Constitution, the Current Contract, Federation issues, calendar of events, posts, and links to our other Bargaining Units within District 17.

Yours in camaraderie,

Jeff Parton

(President,

D 17 Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit)

