

OSSTF Rainbow District 3
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April 2019



The LINK

OSSTF - this is who we are!

STANDING UP FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

DÉFENDRE L'ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE

Committed to protecting and
enhancing public education



Dates of Interest:

April 3rd: District Meeting
4:00 pm

April 4th: OTBU Meeting
4:00 pm

**April 4th: OTIP Retirement
Workshop held at Caruso Club**
Register on line OTIP.com
5:00 pm

April 8th: P.A Day

April 9th Pizza and staff visit
Lunchtime - LaSalle SS

April 10th: H&S Training
4:00 pm

President's Message

In the wake of a multitude of proposed cuts by the Ford government to education and the services our members provide, OSSTF/FEESO has prepared a fight back plan. This plan will require local leaders to coordinate actions and mobilize members in different ways.

It is NOT business as usual.

We are relying on you to assist with many of these actions, while Provincial Office continues to coordinate other actions with our affiliates. At the same time, Provincial Office will continue to develop broader strategies to engage members and to keep them informed. This plan must be flexible and adaptable to the unpredictability of the Ford government.

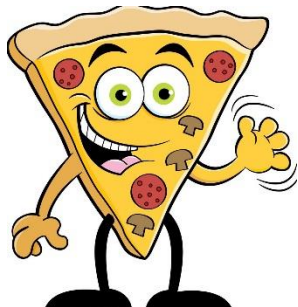
Here are a few of the recent actions;

Rally for Education—April 6 • Multi-affiliate Rally for Education at Queen's Park in Toronto on Saturday, April 6 • Memo issued to leaders with information has gone out.

RedForEd every Friday • Members are encouraged to wear RedForEd every Friday as a show of solidarity and to protest cuts to publicly funded education in Ontario; use #RedForEd on social media.

**April 10th: ESSU Meeting -
Lively District Office 4:30 pm**

**April 10th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime Lo-Ellen Park**



April 9th: PSSP CBC 4:00 pm

**April 11th: PSSP Executive
Meeting 4:00 pm**

**April 15th: Human Rights
Meeting 4:00 pm**

**April 15th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime - Cecil Facer**

**April 16th: Health & Safety
Meeting 4:00 pm**

**April 16th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime - CVDCS**

**April 17th: Council of
Teachers' Meeting 4:00 pm**

**April 18th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime - Lockerby CS**

April 19th: Good Friday



Here For Students Campaign • Update of the Here For Students campaign website; now includes an “Email Your MPP” option, and addition of messaging around increases to class sizes and use #hereforstudents on social media. Use #NoCutsToEducation on social media.

Video messages from the OSSTF/FEESO President • Developing and distributing short video messages to members from Harvey Bischof • Continue to accept media interviews with President Bischof on major news networks • Support media contact with local leaders with local media outlets, and share media reports on our website and on social media.

Other potential future actions • All Member Telephone Town Hall(s) • Publication of an open letter to all parents from OSSTF/FEESO • Engagement of parents through local OSSTF/FEESO School Council Representatives • Formal development of a province wide coalition of education affiliates, parent groups and other interested organizations.

JOIN THE FIGHTBACK!

District Officer's – Information for members

OSSTF Provincial Website Member Login

There are many reasons for checking the member-protected area of the OSSTF website on a regular basis. Quick links to district and bargaining unit bulletins, a new member outreach resource, and a brand new occasional teacher's guide, as well as info about OSSTF benefits can all be found inside “My OSSTF.” But first you have to get in to the member-protected area. After going to www.osstf.on.ca, click on “Member Login.” If you don't have your login, you will need to call the provincial office and ask for the Membership Database Team at 1-800-267-7867. They will ask you for the following information before they provide your login:

- Membership ID (if known)
- Home address
- Home phone #
- The last 3 digits of your SIN #
- A non-employer email address
- Date of Birth (optional)
- Work location (if available)

Quick Links

[A Member's Guide to the Long Term Disability Plan For Teachers](#)

[Annual Learning Plan for Experienced Teachers](#)

[District Funding / Financement du district](#)

[Expense Voucher \(Online form\)](#)

[New Member Outreach Resource](#)

[Occasional Teacher's Guide](#)

[OSSTF Benefits](#)

Once you provide that info, you will be able to reach the member-protected area of the OSSTF website.

April 29th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime - Barrydowne
College

April 30th: Pizza and staff
visit: Lunchtime - Espanola HS

April Fools' Day or April Fool's Day is an annual Western celebration commemorated on April 1 by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. The jokes and their victims are called April fools. People playing April Fool jokes often expose their prank by shouting "April fool" at the unfortunate victim.



The Ford government's proposed cuts to education is no joke!

UNION MYTH INFORMATION

DEBUNKED!

MYTH #1

**EDUCATION UNIONS
BENEFIT WORKERS,
BUT ARE BAD FOR
EDUCATION..**



At times such as these, it is important to remember what your Union is doing for you to preserve jobs, improve working conditions and fight for high quality, public funded education in Ontario.

Unions have often taken a bad rap, especially when political climates get hot. As an OSSTF member, you may find yourself having to defend your union or unions in general.

Here are some common "myths about unions – debunked!" that may be helpful, should you find yourself in such a situation.

Our Federation is an important stakeholder in Ontario's public education system. An entire floor of our Provincial Office is dedicated to Educational Services. We provide cutting edge professional development to education workers and we produce current, socially-relevant curriculum. We initiated the first comprehensive research project on bullying in North America. Clearly, we are invested in the health and strength of the education system and the well-being of students. We do, however, acknowledge that the working conditions of our members are intrinsically entwined with the learning conditions of students and when we advocate for one, we advocate for both. OSSTF/FEESO is committed to protecting and enhancing public education.

MYTH #2

**ACTIVE UNION
MEMBERS GET
BLACKLISTED BY
EMPLOYERS**



Your right to belong to and be active in a union is protected by provincial and federal laws and is guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A standard clause stating that there shall be no discrimination or coercion exercised against an employee for participating in union activities is also included in most collective agreements. Furthermore, many progressive employers recognize that unions are an integral part of doing business and regularly consult union leaders on matters of employment. OSSTF/FEESO protects its members from any arbitrary actions from employers.

MYTH #3

I PAY MY DUES TO THE UNION BUT GET NOTHING IN RETURN.

Members of OSSTF/FEESO pay one of the lowest dues rate in Canada: 1.3%. What do you get in return? Just some of the benefits and services that our Federation offers its members include: contract and salary negotiation, the handling of labour grievances and arbitrations, pay equity, pension advice, health and safety training, healthcare benefits, long-term disability, curriculum advice and lessons, educational resources, legal advice, professional development, political lobbying, international assistance, awards and scholarships, mediation, and the promotion and protection of public education. OSSTF/FEESO provides its members a broad range services to ensure that their jobs are secure and protected.

MYTH #4

UNIONS WERE ONCE NEEDED BUT NOW THEY ARE OBSOLETE.

Anti-union sentiment in North America is at an all-time high. Recent actions by governments in North America to circumvent the legal collective bargaining process is troubling; this means the need for unions is more important than ever! One strategy used by businesses that don't want to deal with unions is to acknowledge that they were needed during the industrial age, but have no place in a modern economy. They cite today's absence of industrial age conditions such as: low wages, poor benefits, no job security, and employer greed. Unions continue to fight for the rights of workers and have extended their mandate. Not satisfied with having helped established, among other things: the weekend, eight-hour work days, public education, universal healthcare, public pensions, and the minimum wage, unions now also champion many social movements and causes that benefit everyone. Unions remain relevant and valuable in today's society.

MYTH #5

THE UNION IS JUST A BUNCH OF COMPLAINERS.

It's true that union members complain . . . they complain when they witness: unfair labour practices, members being treated unfairly or arbitrarily, when a mutually agreed upon contract is broken, when health and safety regulations are ignored, when the work of education workers is undervalued, and when the tenets of public education are threatened. We don't just complain, though; we are a proactive organization. We challenge employers who do not respect the work or contracts of workers. We lobby the government on issues of education and worker's rights. We not only ensure that health and safety rules are being adhered to, we provide input on the writing of such legislation. OSSTF/FEESO acts on behalf of its members.

MYTH #6

UNIONS PROTECT INCOMPETENT WORKERS.

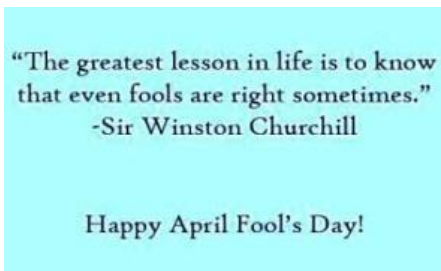
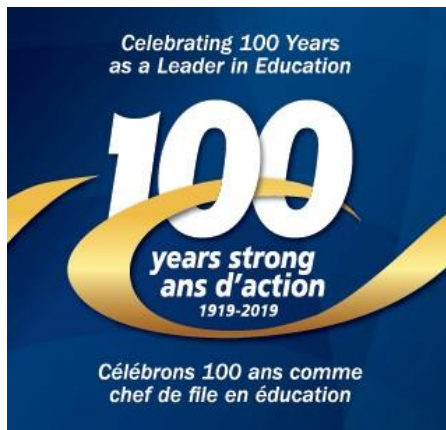
OSSTF/FEESO has no tolerance for incompetence or unprofessionalism. Such behaviours not only compromise the education system, but tarnish the good reputation of all education workers. Our Federation does, however, vehemently protect a member's right to a fair performance appraisal and due process. We recognize that members accused of unsatisfactory performance may have been unfairly targeted or that there may be underlying issues or conditions that need to be taken into consideration. OSSTF/FEESO protects every member's right to a fair process.



5 Easy Ways to Refresh Your Home for Spring on a Budget

With the cold weather behind us, it's the perfect time to spruce up your home's interior in preparation for the warm and bright season ahead.

To learn more about 5 easy ways you can freshen up your home this spring on a budget, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article38.



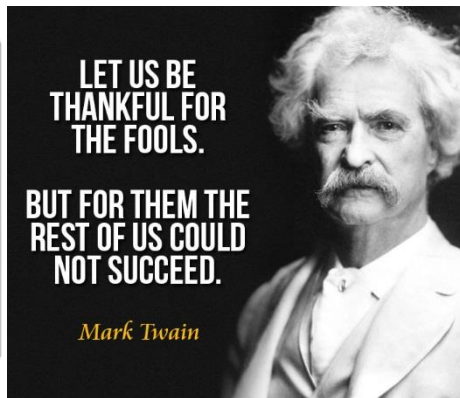
OSSTF - Committed to protecting and enhancing public education

- Without a strong public education system, our diverse, open and prosperous society is threatened
- Without highly capable, dedicated teachers and educational workers, student success is jeopardized
- And without positive learning and working conditions, educational progress is undermined

As one of the most powerful, progressive forces in the educational community, OSSTF/FEESO can back up its beliefs with action – and really make a difference.

All our efforts to **protect and enhance public education** are founded on the value of public education and the five principles required to sustain it.

Congratulations to the winners of the March LINK Leprechaun Hunt Contest – keep reading the LINK for future games – we love giving stuff away!



How to Save Money on Your Home and Auto Insurance

It's important to have enough coverage on your home and auto policies so you can get back to where you started in the event of a total loss – but that doesn't mean you should be paying more than you have to. There are a number of factors that can reduce the cost of your insurance, some of which could save you hundreds of dollars.

Visit www.otipinsurance.com/article37 to discover home and auto insurance savings and discount options that you may be eligible for.





Members... Check out the link to OTIP OSSTF members page:

<https://www.otipinsurance.com/OSSTF3>