

OSSTF Rainbow District 3
184 9th Avenue, Lively, ON

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February
2020



The LINK



Your photo here! 😊

D3 Office Calendar

Feb 3rd: Strike Captain Meeting 4:30 pm

Feb 5th: District Executive Meeting 4:30 pm

Feb 12th: Human Rights Meeting 4:30 pm

Feb 13th: Status of Women Meeting 4:30 pm

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President's Message

The start of a new semester is upon us bringing a fresh start as well as opportunities for transitions. As many of you already know, we have several members who have become full-time employees recently. It is an exciting time for them as they begin a new life stage, but also for the staff welcoming this influx of new ideas and enthusiasm. We would be remiss not to salute those long-time members who have transitioned to retirement as of the end of Semester One. We wish them the best in all their new ventures.

Although there has not been much happening on the central negotiation front lately, OSSTF and all other education affiliates have increased their efforts on their respective job actions. The District 3

Feb 14th: Valentine's day

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

Feb 17th: Family Day



Feb 19th: TBU Meeting
4:30 pm

Feb 19th: ESSU Executive Meeting
4:30 pm

Feb 25th: Educators Financial Group – Financial Planning Workshop – all members welcome!
4:30 pm at District Office
RSVP: 706-692-3923

Feb 27th: Health & Safety Meeting
4:30 pm

March 4th: District Executive Meeting 4:30 pm

Central Committee is taking stock of our local job actions to date and will be making adjustments as needed. More information will be forthcoming shortly. We can only hope that both sides will get back to the table soon and make progress towards a negotiated settlement. Until such time, it is important for all members to unite in our collective efforts and support each other through this challenging period.

Eric Laberge - District, TBU & OTBU President

District Officer's Memo

Important dates for prospective retirees:

This is a reminder of some key dates* for prospective retirees. *Updated timelines for 2019-20 have been posted in First Class. Prospective **June 2020 teacher retirees** must provide notice of their intent to retire by **Monday, March 30, 2020**. Those intending to retire at the end of this school year may be interested in terminating their LTD premiums for the balance of the school year. Contact the District 3 office for information on **how to apply for LTD premium termination**.

Non-teaching members intent on retiring this year should consider providing more than the minimum two weeks' notice required to ensure that the OMERS pension plan has adequate time to ensure pension payments start on time. The RDSB confirms that although they only require two weeks' notice of intent to retire, it is in members' best interests to provide more than two weeks' notice.

OSSTF recommends that anyone planning to retire does so on the last day of the month. Both pension plans (OMERS and OTPP) begin pension payments only in the month following retirement.

Post-retirement benefits:

Members of the OSSTF Benefits Plan who are planning to retire should be aware that their extended healthcare benefits cease upon retirement. There are several providers of health and dental benefits for retirees.

Walk into Retirement with a Plan (OTIP): Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 5pm at the Caruso Club.

Registration is now open at www.otip.com/For-Retirees. Click on the button "Free Retirement Workshop." Workshops are listed by date. You must register online to attend this workshop. Even if you are still a few years away from retirement, it is worthwhile attending to start planning for your post-retirement health & dental benefits. This workshop is open to all members of all bargaining units. Spots fill up quickly, as this workshop is also open to AEFO, CUPE, ETFO, and OECTA members.

Helen Gavard is a Library Technician at Confederation Secondary School. She has asked to share this story with members.

"Over the years I have sat on the **OSSTF-D3 Human Rights Committee**. Like-minded people gather, learn from each other and educate our members on a variety of human rights issues. Maybe this group could stir your passion too. Having coordinated groups for 4 service projects in Nicaragua and the upcoming Dominican Republic housing project, I think I've found my groove. It's important to reach out to the needs in your community. Just ask around and you'll be happily surprised at how many people serve food at the Elgin St. Mission or at the "Out of the Cold" dinners, walk dogs at the local shelter, volunteer at the hospital or hospice, or collect food for the local food banks. The list of opportunities is long and the needs are great."



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Submitted by: Helen Gavard, Confederation SS

Sometimes it may take years to figure out how you can help make a difference in this world. I mean, really... how can one person contribute anything substantial? It was a quote by Margaret Mead that stirred me to action...

Late fall I applied for the **OSSTF International Assistance Grant Program** and received \$3,000! My mission team out of Trinity United Church in Lively will be offering a sewing workshop at the vocational school in the Dominican Republic when we go on the March Break. The grant is to be used for educational purposes and our team is working on a housing project. So I coordinated how OSSTF with the Director of the *Instituto Tecnico Educativo V.P.* and we created a workshop that will support students and the school. We are very excited to receive this grant for the second time (first in 2011 for a classroom/library in Nicaragua). Education creates opportunities that can help lift people out of poverty.



The vocational school was established to help the under-educated, poor people of the North Coast learn skills that would lead to viable employment, allowing them to provide for their families and avoiding an otherwise inevitable life spent in compromising situations.

We are very grateful for this support from our Union. Please don't forget about the grant program if you are considering or planning any social justice work around the world. Here is the website to apply.

<https://www.osstf.on.ca/international-assistance-program>

Who knew this??? February 1st – I'm celebrating!

The celebration of spunky old broads was created as a month-long holiday by Dr. Gayle Carson, and the first day of the celebration has also become Spunky Old Broads Day. Carson, a coach and advisor to CEOs and entrepreneurial managers around the world, who focuses on helping older women in particular, thought that the words spunky, old, and broad all had negative connotations, and decided to put them together to create something positive, coming up with Spunky Old Broads (SOBs). The day and month celebrate women 50 and older who don't want to get old quietly, and "who are interested in living a regret-free life."

The month of February was chosen as it is Dr. Carson's birth month.



Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

In my endless quest for more useless information to share in the LINK, I discovered that:

February 5 is officially “World Nutella Day”!!

- When chocolate became a scarce, pricey, and rationed commodity during WW2, Italian pastry maker Pietro Ferrero added hazelnuts to extend the cocoa supply. And so, in 1946, Pasta Gianduja was born!
- WTF is Pasta Gianduja? Before adopting the name Nutella, the chocolaty spread was actually a sliceable loaf named after a creepy traditional Piedmontese carnival character and marionette named Gianduja.
- For years, Pasta Gianduja (now called Supercrema) was free for Italian children - shops all over Italy honored a BYOB (bring your own bread) policy where kids could bring in their own slice of bread and get the complimentary spread.
- In 1963, Ferrero's son Michele Ferrero revamped Supercrema with the intention of marketing it throughout Europe. Its composition was modified, and it was renamed "Nutella". The first jar of Nutella left the factory in Alba on April 20, 1964 and was finally made available in Canada in 1974.
- A jar of Nutella is sold every 2.5 seconds
- Approximately 1.35 million pounds of Nutella are produced every day
- The definitively correct pronunciation is “new tell-uh” not “nuh-tell-uh.”
- In 2014, a French couple named their baby Nutella. The government deemed this an unacceptable name and legally renamed the child “Ella” when the family failed to show up to court.

February is Black History Month



Feet forward, head turned backward, the Sankofa bird reflects on the past to build a successful future.

The D03 Status of Women

Committee provides an opportunity for open discussions of women's issues. The bi-annual Gatherings are intended to bring members together for a social event that either educates or entertains. We try to choose speakers that can inform our members about current women's issues or represent women in leadership roles. At the same time, we collect donations that go towards women's causes, such as Tampon Tuesday.

The 2019 Fall Gathering took place on Nov 28th. The ladies were treated to dinner, adult beverages and the comedy of local comedian, Lesley Lynn. Lesley has been a fixture in the Sudbury comedy scene for the past five years.

A life-long feminist, she is proud to be the longest standing female comedian in the Sudbury scene. She holds her own in the male-dominated art of crafting jokes with a wry sense of humour and a killer sense of fashion.



OSSTF members and Committee Chair Katrina Ross (right) at the Fall Gathering pictured with Leslie Lynne (middle, red sweater)

Status of Women Committee

Fall Gathering Nov 28, 2019

The Status of Women "Spring Gathering" will take place on April 23, 2020. Once the agenda for the event is finalized, we will be sending out invitations to members via your District Reps.



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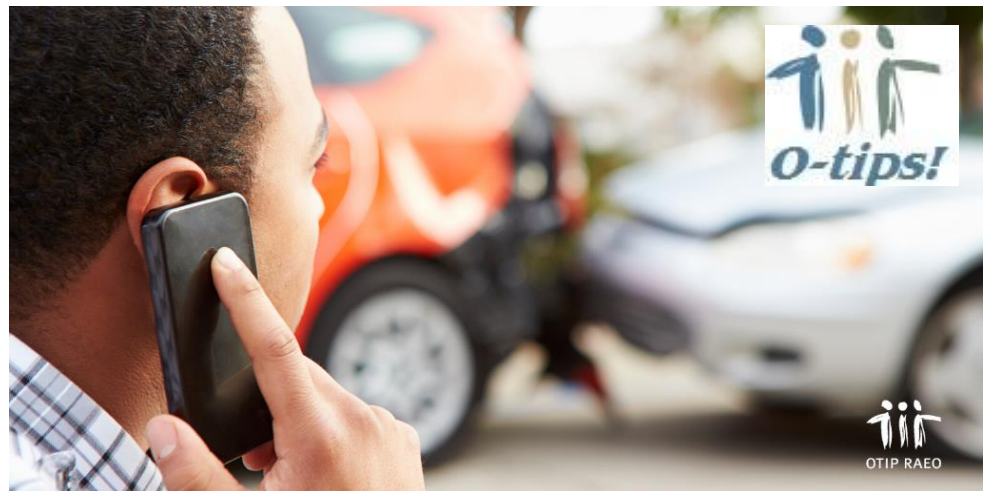
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If I'm not at fault in a car accident, do I have to pay my deductible?

If you're in a car accident and your insurance provider determines that you were not at fault, one of the first questions you probably have is "If it wasn't my fault, do I have to pay a deductible?" Although each situation is unique and there is no quick and easy answer, here are a few factors that can determine whether you will have to pay.

For more information, visit: www.otipinsurance.com/article59

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

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