

OSSTF Rainbow District 3
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MARCH 2020

What is seen in the middle
of March and April that
can't be seen at the
beginning or end
of either month ?

The LINK



D3 Office Calendar

March 4: District Meeting
4:30 pm

March 5: Building Committee Meeting
4:30 pm

March 12: PSSP Executive Meeting
4:30 pm

Mar 13 - 16: AMPA



Index

- President's Message
- District Officer's Memo
- March Madness or Spring Fever?
- O-Tips

President's Message

It has been over 20 years since all education affiliates walked together to protest the government's education agenda. In the fall of 1997, it was in response to then Minister John Snobelen's "crisis in education" and the Harris PC government's funding cuts. On Friday February 21st, AEFO, ETFO, OECTA, and OSSTF came together once again in a strong show of solidarity against Minister Stephen Lecce's lack of meaningful negotiation and the Ford PC government's funding cuts. History tends to repeat itself.

As we have now completed our fourth full withdrawal of services, we continue to hope that the government will engage OSSTF and all of the other education affiliates and work towards a resolution. In the absence of a collective agreement, we will continue to apply pressure through our various job action as well as engaging the public in sharing our message on the realities of what these proposed cuts will mean for the students we serve.

OSSTF/FEESO conducts an Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) with representative from all its bargaining units. The Provincial Assembly is the supreme legislative body of OSSTF/FEESO and is responsible for establishing or amending Federation policies, bylaws, constitutions, budgets, the annual Action Plan and for the election of the Provincial Executive and OTF Governors. This year, the following members will attend AMPA as representatives of Rainbow District 3:

- Eric Laberge
- Sue Melville
- Phil Crowe (ESSU President)
- Shawna Rajotte (PSSP President)
- Frank Gurney (MSS)
- Katrina Ross (Cecil Facer SS)
- Warren Tilston (Espanola HS)
- Kelly Rodrigues (Lockerby CS)
- Cindy Komarechka (OTBU)

March 25: TBU Meeting
4:30 pm

March 25 ESSU meeting
4:30 pm

March 31: Human Rights Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

April 1: District Meeting
4:30 pm

**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

On a personal note, it was nice to see many of you on the line over that past two weeks and a big thank goes out to all members for your support of our collective efforts. An even bigger thank you goes out to all of the Strike Captains for the thankless work they put in to communicate, accommodate, organize, and make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Regards,
Eric Laberge
District, & T/OTBU President



District Officer's Message

Have you heard about the new OSSTF/FEESO Women's Advocate Program? Its purpose is to provide specially trained volunteers to assist and provide support to women experiencing workplace sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, or abuse. Women's Advocates are not counsellors. Their role is to provide members with information and resources to support them in dealing with their situation. These volunteers will assist members in connecting with local community agencies, provide additional advocacy to members as required, and provide training to district/bargaining unit members on issues around gender/sexual violence and/or abuse.

What are the qualities of a good Women's Advocate? An advocate is someone who can listen and help when a member is facing violence or abuse in her relationship, experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace, or in need of community resources and/or workplace supports. Women's Advocates will be expected to respect confidentiality, support a



Get Involved



woman's right to make own decisions, and act as a liaison between women and their union leadership.

For more information on the Women's Advocate program as well as the **application**, please visit:
<https://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/about-us/what-we-stand-for/equity/women-s-advocate-program.aspx>

Are you interested in becoming an OSSTF/FEESO Women's Advocate? We ask that interested members forward the completed application to sue.melville@d03.osstf.ca **no later than Wednesday, March 11th** for consideration. The District 3 Status of Women Committee will review all applications and recommend applicants for selection as Women's Advocates. District 3 has been allocated three (3) delegates based on our membership numbers. Ideally, we are looking for candidates from different bargaining units to take on this leadership role.

In-house training will be provided to candidates for the OSSTF/FEESO Women's Advocate Program in Toronto on April 24-25, 2020. The program draws on the work of organizations with expertise on issues of violence, and provides links to the many resources available in the union, and in the community. The ultimate goal is to give the OSSTF/FEESO Women's Advocate the knowledge, tools, and confidence to provide support to members in need. The Provincial Office will cover the costs of delegates attending the training session.

What life changes do I need to tell my auto and home insurer about?

Got a new job, moved into a new home or sold your car? Your insurance broker may not be the first person you think to discuss your life changes with, but in certain cases it's important to notify them as soon as possible. This is because many life changes can impact your insurance premiums. In some cases, a failure to notify your insurance broker within the time period indicated on your policy could result in one of several penalties, including your insurer's decision not to renew your policy. For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article62.

The term “March Madness” has been used to describe epic sales and other such events deemed to be too insane to be real, yet not to be missed. It is also the name used for the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Men’s and Women’s Basketball tournaments beginning in March



According to Wikipedia, Spring fever is any of a number of mood, physical, or behavioral changes, which may be experienced coinciding with the arrival of spring, particularly restlessness, laziness, and even amorousness.

When seasons change, the retina reacts to increases in the amount of daylight. As light during the spring months increases, the body produces less melatonin, causing a lift in mood, a reduced desire to sleep and an increase in libido.

March Madness or Spring Fever – Get ready for it!

Beginning in the mid-1900s, people began using March madness to refer to “a form of madness or uncharacteristic behaviour said to affect people in March”. The expression may have come from the erratic weather of the season; on the other hand it may have something to do with hares, a larger relative of the common rabbit.

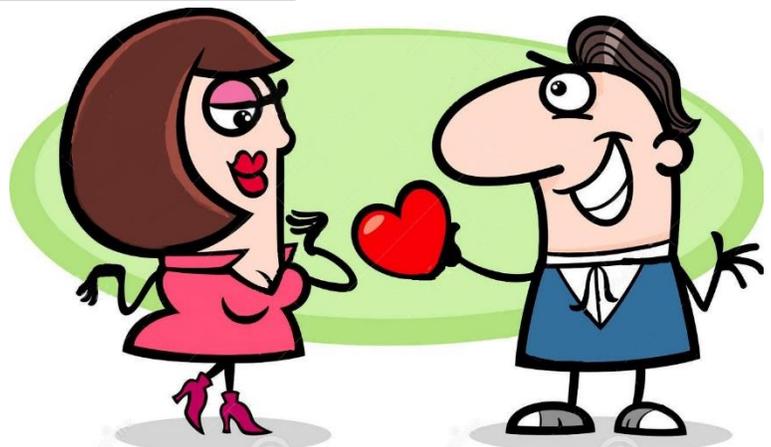
A long-held view is that the hare will behave strangely and excitedly throughout its breeding season, which in Europe peaks in the month of March.

To be as "mad as a March hare" is an English colloquial phrase derived from the observed antics, said to occur only in the March breeding season of the European brown hare.



What made the Mad Hatter mad?

The origin of the phrase, it's believed, is that hatters really did go mad. The chemicals used in hat-making included mer, curous nitrate, used in curing felt. Prolonged exposure to the mercury vapors caused mercury poisoning.





How to find a home you love and a mortgage you can afford

It's no secret, actually. The key is knowledge. Do you have strategies to maximize your down payment ... know how the size of your down payment affects the rate of your mortgage and insurance ... understand how being flexible about location can impact the price?



A professional lending specialist can help with all your questions, because they are dedicated to understanding the housing market and all the costs included with a mortgage.

Take advantage of an accredited mortgage professional's expertise to save time and money.

"Working with an accredited mortgage professional is different from working with someone who can only offer you the mortgage rates offered by one company", says Educators Agent-Regional Director, Chris Knoch. The accredited mortgage professionals at Educators Financial Group offer you:

Access to multiple rates and lenders, which may include lower rates that are not advertised widely. An accredited mortgage professional can vet lenders and negotiate on your behalf, and will have relationships with these lenders.

A mortgage customized to your needs. Because an accredited mortgage professional works with a variety of lenders, they are more likely to find one with the flexibility to offer you what you need.

Service that's free to you. Accredited mortgage professionals are paid by the lender, and there usually isn't an out-of-pocket fee to you. Experience. Accredited mortgage professionals have seen many different types of clients and negotiated many different types of mortgages. The professionals at Educators Financial Group are also familiar with how an educator's financial situation can affect their mortgage needs.

Are you ready for a new mortgage or is your mortgage coming up for renewal? Receive an exclusive rate on a new mortgage or when you transfer your maturing mortgage through Educators Financial Group.

To find out more about our mortgage products and rates go to: educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/mortgages.

To speak to a financial specialist call us at 1.800.263.9541 or go to: educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/get-started

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8, 2020

**An equal world is an
enabled world.**

**How will you help forge a
gender equal world?**

**Celebrate women's
achievement.**

**Raise awareness against
bias.**

Take action for equality.

**There are many IWD
activities happening in
Sudbury – we have
included a few of them
for those interested in
celebrating the women
in your life.**

Strike the pose!

#Each for Equal



She & Her International Women's Day Celebration – Inspiring and Empowering Female Leaders! Sudbury Theatre Centre, Friday, March 6th 6pm to 10pm

\$40 tickets available through the Sudbury Theatre Centre, includes one glass of wine and appetizers catered by Nesci's Catering, as well as many door prizes. For tickets and more information, go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sheher-international-womens-day-celebration-tickets-89092751819>

**International Women's Day Brunch at Wander Food & Wine, 112 Durham Street, Sudbury
Sunday, March 8th 11am to 3pm**

\$35 + taxes for a 3-course meal. For tickets and more information, go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/womens-day-brunch-tickets-91795489781>

**Holistic Healing Fair at the Caruso Club
Sunday, March 8th 10am to 4pm**

This is a FREE ADMISSION event featuring over 50 unique vendors that focus on health and wellness. Mediums, psychics, all natural products, card readings, different healing modalities, stones, jewelry, energy work and so much more! No charge for admission. For more information, go to <https://holistichealingfair.com/sudbury2020/>

**BLOOM 2 Multi-venue Music Festival presented by Northern Lights Festival Boreal
March 6-7, 2020**

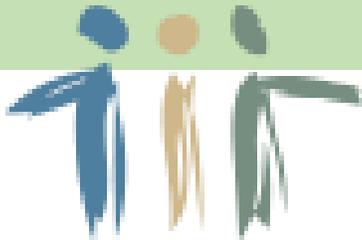
Live bands performing at The Asylum, The Grand, Towne House Tavern, and Zigs on two nights
For more information, go to <https://nlfb.ca/bloom/#/artists/headliners>

March 10, 2020 – Tampon Tuesday

Spacecraft Brewery, 854 Notre Dame Ave, Sudbury 6:00pm – 9:00pm
United Way Centraide North East Ontario and the Sudbury & District Labour Council are inviting you, to take part in Tampon Tuesday by collecting and donating much-needed menstruation products in support of individuals in need. For more info, go to: <http://www.uwcneo.com/perch/resources/PDFs/tampon-tuesday-2020.pdf>

Have you checked out the link to OTIP OSSTF members' page:

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



OTIP RAE0.

From the District 3 Office, we wish you all a very enjoyable and safe March break!



Eric, Sue and Donna

Tips to give you peace of mind during your March break vacation

A March break family vacation is a great time to build lasting memories, strengthen family bonds and escape from normal day-to-day life. When you're getting ready for a vacation, make sure you're also taking steps to give yourself peace of mind while you're away by protecting your home and car. Follow the tips below to ensure you have the important things covered before you hit the road!

For more information, visit <http://www.otipinsurance.com/article63>



And wherever you happen to be on March 17th, don't forget to celebrate St. Paddy's Day!!



SHAMROCKS & SHENANIGANS FOR ALL!!!!

