

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

Phone 705-692-3923
Fax 705-692-0154

May
2020

The LINK



D3 Office Calendar

May 20th: District AGM
Details to follow

June 2nd: TBU/OTBU AGM
Details to follow



Index

- President's Message
- District Officer Memo
- This Planet Earth
- O-Tips

President's Message

As we begin the second month of remote learning, novelty has been replaced by the challenge of maintaining student engagement. Members from all job classes have had to adjust to working remotely in support of student learning. This situation has had no equal in our lifetime. There will be plenty of time for reflection once it is over, whenever that will be.

As ratification meetings continue across the province for the tentative central deal, our local Bargaining Units' negotiating teams are ramping up their efforts to engage the board and to bring a local deal to their respective memberships. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of the members of those teams working hard on your behalf.

As always, if you have questions or concern, feel free to reach out.

Regards,
Eric Laberge
District, & T/OTBU President



**OSSTF/FEESO
Reaches Tentative
Central Agreements**



VOTE

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**



Cast your vote online May 14th or 15th!

On Monday, April 27th and Tuesday, April 28th, Bargaining Unit Presidents and Chief Negotiators representing Education Workers and Teachers/Occasional Teachers met to hear the details of the tentative central deal. Following the information and Q&A sessions, these leaders voted to recommend the tentative agreements for ratification by the full membership.

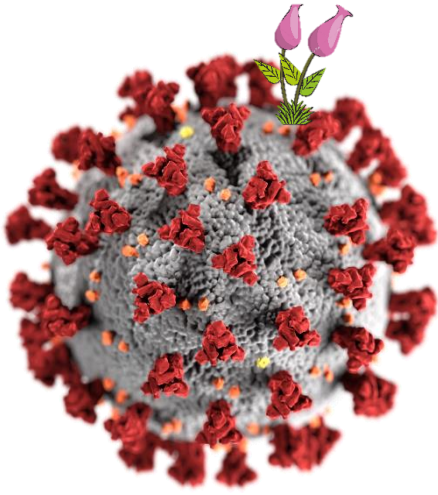
Online member information sessions will be held between May 4th and 14th to explain the content of the tentative agreements and provide opportunities for Q&A. Members will use the voting function that resides in the *Members Only* section of the OSSTF Provincial website to vote on their respective agreement on May 14th and 15th. Only those members who are registered users of the Federation website will be able to cast their votes.

If you do not remember your OSSTF Member ID, please send an email request to sue.melville@d03.osstf.ca. You will need that ID number in order to request access to the password-protected area of the OSSTF website. You can request a password by sending an email to the Membership Database at Membership-Database@osstf.ca.

If you are not yet registered, there is still time to do so! Instructions on how to register, as well as video tutorials on navigating the website, can be found on the website's Member Login page (<https://www.osstf.on.ca/en-CA/protectedspace>).

Sue Melville
District Officer

**See the last page of the LINK for
complete instructions on how to
log into the OSSTF Provincial
Website.**





The Covid-19 virus that has held us hostage in our homes is already reorienting our relationship to government, to the outside world, and even to each other. Some of the things we are now seeing:

- Virtual OSSTF District, BU, and Committee meetings taking place online via Zoom.
- Community spirit as more people are coming together in new ways to help each other via social media, dedicated shopping hours for seniors only, new social distancing guidelines for instore shopping, mandatory face masks.
- Facebook and other social media groups offering help to those in need.
- Covid-19 lock-down has produced many aspiring performers, sharing videos on social media, as music brings the world closer together.
- Line dancing in the streets – what?



Groups
[See All](#)


Caremongering - Sudbury, ON
 Group · 1.7K members
 This is a group for sharing and organizing community resources in response to COVID-19 in the Sudbury...
 6 unread posts
 Member since March


Rachel M. Dugas ▸ **Caremongering - Sudbury, ON**
 19 Apr · 🌐 · Masks for All Sudbury Our very own Jane Cox is working with "Masks for All Sudbury" and they are looking for people to sew and make masks. A box will be put in front of the church if you would like to drop them off. A link with instructions is found...
 9
 5 comments 4 shares

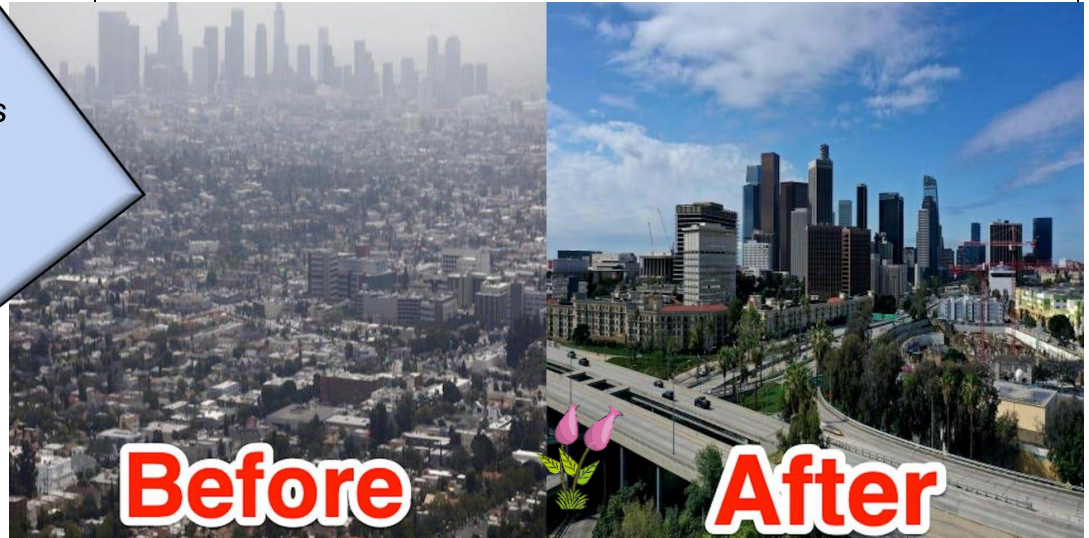
But crisis moments also present opportunity:

- More sophisticated and flexible use of technology.
- More time – to spend with family, work on hobbies, reflect and reconsider the things we took for granted.
- Less polarization – people coming together in new ways. The feeling of “we’re in this together” has also triggered interesting ways of connecting (did you sing from your balcony or front door?).
- A revived appreciation for the outdoors and life’s other simple pleasures.

And let's not forget the changes to our planet.

- Covid-19 caused a significant reduction in greenhouse gasses and other air, water and land polluting outputs.
- In Europe in March, average temperatures were almost two degrees Celsius above the 1981-2010 average. Data from the Sentinel-5P satellite shows that nitrogen dioxide air pollution levels have plummeted across Europe since the pandemic.

Los Angeles, CA has seen some of its best air quality in over 3 decades!

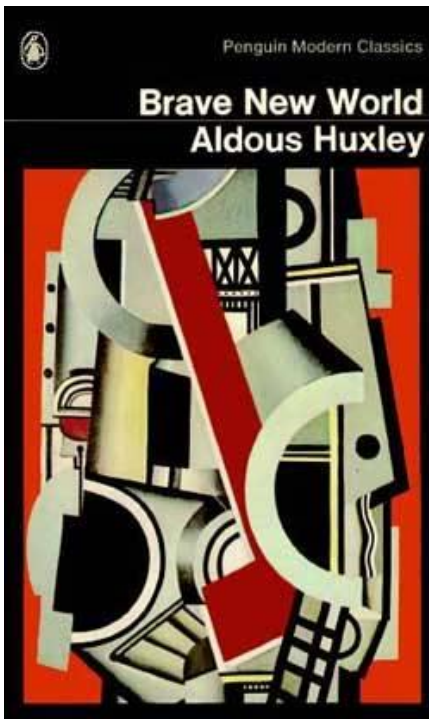


After Covid-19 ... what's next?

Optimistically, the current situation may have a big influence on our approach to pollution as we move past this pandemic.

The enormous challenge of action on climate change has distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day (which happened April 22nd, while we were locked away in our homes).

Good news! Earth Day can be Every Day





**SAY
NOTO
PLASTIC!**

13 ways to make a change.



Until such time as plastic bags, bottles, straws and other single-use plastics are banned world-wide, we can make changes in how we use plastic.

1. Stop using plastic straws, even in restaurants. If a straw is a must, purchase a reusable stainless steel or glass straw
2. Use a reusable produce bag. A single plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. Purchase or make your own reusable produce bag and be sure to wash them often!
3. Give up gum. Gum is made of a synthetic rubber, aka plastic.
4. Buy boxes instead of bottles. Often, products like laundry detergent come in cardboard which is more easily recycled than plastic.
5. Purchase food, like cereal, pasta, and rice from bulk bins and fill a reusable bag or container. You save money and unnecessary packaging.
6. Reuse containers for storing leftovers or shopping in bulk.
7. Use a reusable bottle or mug for your beverages, even when ordering from a to-go shop
8. Bring your own container for take-out or your restaurant doggy-bag since many restaurants use Styrofoam.
9. Use matches instead of disposable plastic lighters or invest in a refillable metal lighter.
10. Avoid buying frozen foods because their packaging is mostly plastic. Even those that appear to be cardboard are coated in a thin layer of plastic.
11. 7.6 billion pounds of disposable diapers are discarded in the US each year. Use cloth diapers to reduce your baby's carbon footprint.
12. Make your own cleaning products that will be less toxic and eliminate the need for multiple plastic bottles of cleaner.
13. Pack your lunch in reusable containers and bags. Also, opt for fresh fruits and veggies and bulk items instead of products that come in single serving cups.

Did you know...black plastic and black Styrofoam are not recyclable? They must go in the garbage.

If you use zipper-lock bags, they can be recycled, as long as you cut the zipper lock off first.

Pizza Boxes! Greasy pizza boxes go into the waste, not recycling.



Leave recycling loose in the blue bin.

If you have shredded paper, it can be bagged as long as there is nothing else in the bag.



<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/garbage-and-recycling/recycling/>

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/garbage-and-recycling/waste-wise/>



Spring cleaning is my favorite way to find out I'm a hoarder.



I'm going to start spring cleaning my house today. And by cleaning, I mean drinking wine and spraying everything with Febreze



COVID-19: How it could impact your car and home insurance

The COVID-19 outbreak is changing many aspects of our daily lives. To help navigate these changes, OTIP has compiled a list of commonly asked questions about the potential impact on your home or auto insurance coverage.

To learn more about COVID-19 and your insurance, visit <http://www.otipinsurance.com/article68>



Feeling the spring-cleaning itch? Tidy up your home with these tips!

With warmer, sunnier days comes the annual tradition of spring cleaning, a time to freshen up your home inside and out. Getting rid of the extra clutter and dirt that accumulated throughout the winter can make you feel bright and ready for relaxing during long summer days. Here are a few tips on how to have a successful and refreshing spring clean this season. For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article70



Follow these steps to vote:

1

Login to the **Registered Users** section with your **OSSTF Member ID**

<https://www.osstf.on.ca/services/member-login/members-login.aspx>

[You will arrive on the Registered Users home page]

2

In the right margin of the page, click the **Voting Centre** badge.



[This will take you to the Voting Centre Landing Page listing all active and upcoming ballots / surveys]

3

On **Voting Centre** page, click the **Ballots/Surveys** button

Ballots / Surveys

[This takes you into the voting system and shows only YOUR eligible ballots]

4

In the box titled **Current Ballots**, click the appropriate link to the desired ballot and follow the instructions to cast your vote.

5

Click **Logout** to go back to the **Registered User** home page of the provincial website.

Troubleshooting Tips:

A

Not Seeing the Voting Centre badge?

Please disable any Ad-Blockers in your browser. This can prevent the Voting Centre badge from displaying in some browsers. If this fails, try switching to a Private / Incognito / InPrivate browsing session.

B

Not Seeing an active ballot? You must login with your member ID

To add your membership ID to your account profile, click the **My Profile** badge, → select the **Edit My Profile** button and provide the missing details in the available fields. Click the **Update My Profile** button to commit the changes.



C

Verify your details

Verify your membership status (seen in My Profile) and affiliation / group affiliation matches the intended audience of the ballot as indicated on the Voting Centre Landing page.

D

Ballots are time sensitive AND targeted

- a. You will only see ballots where your OSSTF member ID is identified as a valid participant.
- b. Once the ballot expiration time has passed, you will not be able to cast a vote.
- c. If you login prior to the ballot start time, the ballot will be visible but inactive until the scheduled start time.

Need Member Profile or Voting Centre assistance?

Email: membership-database@osstf.ca

