

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

Phone: 705-692-3923
Fax: 705-692-0154
osstf@d03.osstf.ca



September
2019

The LINK



Labour Day
September 2, 2019

*Warren Tilston,
(Espanola High
School) CPAC
Chair (left); and Eric
Laberge, (right)
President OSSTF,
District 3 attending
Labour Day
activities at Bell
Park.*

D3 Office Calendar

Sept 3rd:



Sept 11th : District Meeting
4:30 pm

Sept 12th : Status of Women
4:00 pm

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- President's Message
- District Officer Memo
- The New Look – OSSTF D3 Office and Executive
- O-Tips... Info and advise from our partners at OTIP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope that everyone had a restful summer and that your "Back to School" week was a good one. Let me formally introduce myself; my name is Eric Laberge and I am the new OSSTF District 3 President. Our past president James Clyke is now enjoying his well-deserved retirement and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

I have been hard at work since mid-August becoming acclimatized to the new role which began at the OSSTF Leadership Conference. While attending training seminars as well as various workshops, there were many opportunities to develop and hone a variety of skills that I hope will help in serving all members in District 3.

With the August 31st expiry of our collective agreements, the focus will now turn to the bargaining process. After discussions regarding which items are to be negotiated centrally vs locally broke down among OSSTF, the

Sept 12th : CPAC Meeting
4:00 pm

Sept. 16th: Building Committee
4:00 pm

Sept 17th : Benevolent Council
4:30 pm

Sept 18th : TBU Meeting
4:00 pm

Sept 19th : Health & Safety Committee Meeting 4:00 pm

Sept 24th : Ed Services
4:30 pm

Sept 25th : ESSU Executive Meeting 4:30 pm

Sept 27th : PD Day

October 1st : OTBU Meeting
4:00 pm

Oct 2nd : District Meeting
4:30 pm



government and OBSPA, the matter was referred to the Ontario Labour Relations Board. The hearing took place on August 22nd and a decision was issued on September 6th. OSSTF is currently analyzing the specifics of this decision and will issue details in the near future. Please frequently check the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF website for updated information.

Despite the fact that the Minister of Education made remarks two weeks ago about the student-teacher ratio currently sitting at 22.5:1, this only reflects the reality that staffing levels were done largely according to the language in the now expired collective agreement. The government is funding school boards at a ratio of 28:1 but providing transitional funding to offset the shortfall. Make no mistake; the government has not changed course yet and pressure must continue to be applied to reverse these cuts. Unlike other school boards around in the province, the Rainbow D.S.B. has done a very good job navigating these cuts and has largely maintained staffing levels across all job classes for this school year. Ultimately this has only postponed the true impacts of these cuts until next year, unless we are successfully force the government's hand in reversing course. The prospects of a 25% reduction in staff, more crowded classrooms, fewer course options and the closing of programs, will devastate the public education system and negatively affect all students.

Stay tuned as more information will come out over the next few weeks and months. Until then, I hope that you all have a great school year, and I look forward to meeting many of you when I visit your work sites.

DISTRICT OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! Best wishes for an enjoyable school year. It certainly promises to be interesting.

District 3 Standing Committees

Several of our local standing committees have already scheduled meetings for September. The Status of Women, Communications & Political Action, Health & Safety, Educational Services, and District 3 Building Committee will all be meeting this month. If you are interested in finding out more about our local committees, why not come out to a meeting? Dates are listed in this issue of *The LINK*. For more information, please call us at the office at 705-692-3923.

Save these dates for upcoming retirement workshops:

After many years of service to OSSTF, Shelley Page has retired. Marc Robillard will be running the OSSTF retirement workshops this year.

OMERS workshops for non-teaching members:

Thursday, October 29th at 5pm at the District office

OTPP workshop for teacher members:

Tuesday, October 15th at 5pm at the District office

These are the only dates we have for OSSTF retirement workshops this year. If you are in the last five years of your career, we recommend that you attend one of these workshops. Spouses are welcome to attend with you. A light dinner will be served. You can reserve your spot by calling Donna at 705-692-3923 or emailing her at osstf@d03.osstf.ca.



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



**Bargaining Unit
Events:**

Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) retirement workshops:

These workshops are open to all OSSTF members. OTIP will send out the details soon. **Registration through OTIP is required.**

Wednesday, November 20th at 5pm at the Caruso Club in Sudbury

Thursday, April 30th at 5pm in Sudbury (location not yet confirmed).

September 30th Orange Shirt Day – **EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

This year, **Orange Shirt Day** falls on a Monday. Remember to wear your orange shirt to promote the slogan, **Every Child Matters**, is an affirmation of our commitment to raise awareness of the residential school experience and to ensure that every child matters as we focus on our hope for a better future in which children are empowered to help each other.

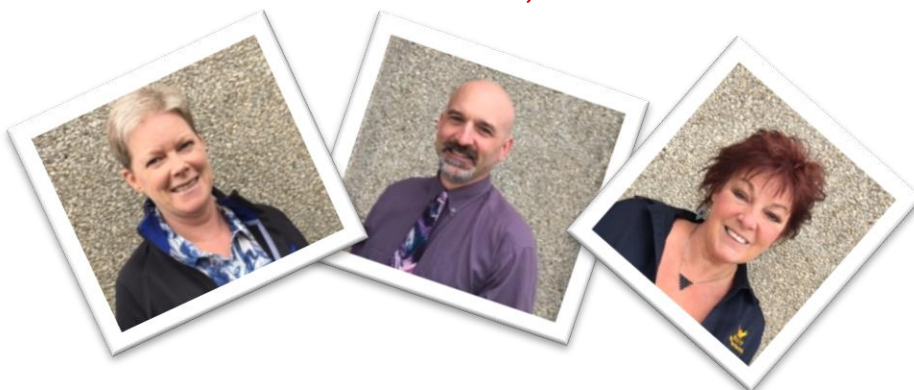
Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

Reminder!! - 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

The faces of the District 3 Office... Sue, Eric and Donna



ESSU President, Phil Crowe and Area Representative Chris Morgan joined ESS Bargaining Unit members from Manitoulin Island to celebrate the end of the school year by enjoying a boat cruise/dinner based out of Little Current that took them on a scenic tour on the North Channel. Thank you to the members who joined us, what a great evening! We have already received emails from members looking forward to our 2020 cruise.

ESSU: On the Water!





From our Partners at OTIP...



School bus safety: How not abiding by the rules of the road can affect your insurance rates...

Did you know that a single infraction involving a school bus can affect your car insurance premiums? Road safety, especially related to school buses and children, is very important. This importance is reflected in insurance company policies, which penalize drivers who do not exercise proper caution around children. The best course of action is to familiarize yourself with the rules of the road, and to remain vigilant around school zones and buses. To learn more, click here: www.otipinsurance.com/article43



Water Damage: What You Need to Know

Water damage can be dangerous, not only to the integrity of your home, but also to your health. It is important to know how to prevent water damage, as well as how to recover from it. Any dwelling has the potential to experience leaks, which could cause damage to your flooring, drywall and belongings; not to mention harmful mold that can take root and cause health issues.

To learn more, click here: www.otipinsurance.com/article45

Sudbury Student Services Consortium (SSSC) Bargaining Unit

The Sudbury Student Services was formed on January 17, 2001 as a partnership of the four school boards in the Sudbury area to deliver common services beginning with student transportation.

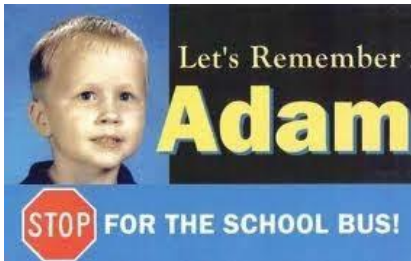
The Consortium has implemented one of the most extensive school bus safety programs in Ontario. This program includes interactive rider safety training programs for all pupils in grades K to 8 in all elementary schools served.

This 8-member Bargaining Unit is part of OSSTF D3 and although we don't see or hear a lot from them on a day to day basis, they are working hard to ensure our students are safely transported to and from their schools.

We welcome **Leona Gervais** as the new SSSC Bargaining Unit President to our District meetings this year. She replaces Lucie Bisson, whom we'd like to thank for doing a great job in the SSSC President role over the past six years.

Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP)

We also welcome a newly elected President to the PSSP Bargaining Unit. **Shawna Rajotte** was elected in May to serve as president of the District 3 PSSP Bargaining Unit for a 2 year term. PSSP is comprised of a collection of over 30 dedicated professionals who provide a wide continuum of assessment, intervention and referral services to the RDSB's most at-risk students.



Professional Student
Services Personnel
Rainbow - District 3