

December 2020



The LINK



D3 Office Calendar

Dec 1st: CPAC Committee
Meeting 4:30 pm

Dec 2nd: District Executive
Meeting 4:30 pm

Dec 7th: Human Rights
Committee Meeting 4:30 pm

Dec 19, 2020 - Jan 3, 2021



Index

- President's Message
- District Officer Memo
- **Ho-Ho-Ho?**
- O-Tips

President's Message:

A colleague at OSSTF Provincial remarked recently that most days are extremely long and full, but the weeks go by so fast. As paradoxical as this may be, it seems to be a common experience. As long and arduous as this unusual school year has been to date, it is hard to believe that it is already December.

In a few weeks, we will all be enjoying a well-deserved break fully realizing that these holidays will be like no other. Get-togethers will be different, likely distant, much smaller in size, and as such probably more restful. Many of us will definitely welcome the latter. We sincerely hope that the sprint of the next few weeks is a smooth one leading to a slow and relaxing holiday.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the District Executive, each Bargaining Unit's Executive and staff representatives, as well as the District Standing Committees, Officers and Chairs for all of their hard work to date during this most difficult time. Thank you to all members who have

Jan 4, 2021 – Back to work

Jan 19, 2021 Ed Services
Committee Meeting 4:30 pm



Interpreting someone's words
doesn't mean defining their boundaries.
If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.



ASSAULT BY AN
INTERPRETER

WHY DRAW THE LINE

Deaf women and women with disabilities are 4x more likely to experience sexual assault.

WHEN TO DRAW THE LINE

Being concerned about someone's well being is not crossing the line; it's being a good friend. If you're worried, ask.

HOW TO DRAW THE LINE

There's always more than one option for a bystander. Take a stand safely and do something you feel comfortable with.

You could:

- Check in with your friend: "Are you okay?"
- Believe her. Validate her feelings.
- Find support. Offer community resources and services.

IT HAPPENED TO ME

Remember, it's never your fault.
You're not alone. Tell someone you trust.

Help is available: draw-the-line.ca

Sexual violence is everyone's problem.
Break the silence. Make it stop. Spread the word.
Find out more at draw-the-line.ca

43

Ontario Coalition of
Rape Crisis Centres

METRAC
ACTION ON VIOLENCE

springtide
ending violence against women

Ontario

shown tremendous resilience and professionalism in the face of many challenging situations.

Here is hoping that the days catch up to the fast-moving weeks on our way to the end of 2020.

District Officer's Comments:

Recently, I attended a virtual workshop for secondary teachers and school staff that was sponsored by the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC). It was entitled, Drawing the Line on Sexual Violence, and was designed to highlight resources available for educating secondary students about sexual violence. Following the workshop, all attendees received a set of curriculum resources for use with students.

[Send an email to osstf@d03.osstf.ca to enter for a chance to win the complete set of resources]

The workshop provided recent stats on the challenges facing northern communities when it comes to incidences of sexual violence, including the lack of resources and supports in northern and rural communities, and lack of confidence in policing. We spent some time looking at the impact of pandemic restrictions on sexual violence, from increased risks caused by people isolating in their homes to the impact of more people spending greater proportions of their days online. The concept of consent was another topic in the workshop, as well as bystander inaction, and different levels of intervention.

The Draw the Line resources have been around for about 10 years, and have been updated to reflect changing times. This resource package is a great tool for secondary staff interested in educating students about sexual violence and its prevention. Check out <http://www.draw-the-line.ca/index.html> for more information and to order free classroom resources.



"Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history — there are over 733 versions of the tune copyrighted.

According to Facebook data analysis, the weeks before Christmas is the most popular time for couples to break up. Now that's very Grinchy behaviour!



Bah, humbug?

As the year 2020 (finally!) draws to an end, for some, the thought of the Christmas season may not hold as much joy as in previous years, and especially for those who will not be able to be with family or head south for a warm beach vacation... but considering the stuff I found on the googler this month, maybe 2020 isn't the worst Christmas in our history. We could be illegally parading around dressed as pickles, carrying a dung twig after falling from the roof top while decorating... 🤪

Celebrating Christmas used to be illegal - seriously.

By the time the Puritans settled in Boston, celebrating Christmas in America had been outlawed. From 1659–1681, anyone caught making merry would face a fine for celebrating. After the Revolutionary War, the day was so unimportant that Congress even held their first session on December 25, 1789. Christmas wasn't proclaimed a federal holiday for almost another century.

Coca-Cola played a part in Santa's image

Before Coca-Cola got in on it, Santa used to look a lot less jolly and kind of creepy. It wasn't until 1931, when the beverage company hired an illustrator named Haddon Sundblom for magazine ads that we got the jolly old elf...and the kids would be nightmare-free when they dreamed of his visit on Christmas Eve.

Before Santa Claus, Coca-Cola relied on images of smartly dressed young women to sell its beverages.



Christmas decorating sends nearly 15,000 people to the ER

Each year as we watch Clark Griswold decorate his house in "Christmas Vacation", the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 14,700 people will visit hospital emergency rooms each November and December from holiday-related decorating accidents. Does breaking a nail count?

Rudolph was almost named Reginald, the red-nosed reindeer, and was actually conceived by Montgomery Ward Department store as a marketing gimmick to get kids to buy holiday coloring books.



Mistletoe is an aphrodisiac?

This holiday plant is an ancient symbol of fertility and virility — and the Druids considered it to be an aphrodisiac. The name itself has a meaning that might not inspire a romantic interlude... Mistle Thrush birds eat the plant's berries, digest the seeds, and then the droppings eventually grow into new plants. The Germanic word for mistletoe literally means "dung on a twig".



...from bird dung to Christmas bouquet!



In actuality, Mistletoe are parasitic growths that propagate on trees - birds distribute the seeds in their droppings or by wiping their beaks against the bark of a tree. After a mistletoe germinates, a modified root penetrates the bark of the host tree and forms a connection through which water and nutrients pass from host to the parasite. Pucker up!

The Christmas Pickle - Yes, I'm back on the pickle thing!

So, it turns out that this tradition of hiding the pickle ornament on the tree on Christmas Eve, which was thought to have German origins, is most likely a marketing scheme from the late 1800s.

Woolworths, a five and dime store of the time, began importing German glass-blown ornaments shaped like fruit and nuts in the 1890s and may have come up with the tradition of the pickle ornaments in order to sell more of them.

Oh, but there's more... Berrien Springs, Michigan is recognized as the "Christmas Pickle Capital of the World" by the Pickle Packers International. This small town also used to host festivals in honour of these wet green things. The festivities included a parade led by a "Grand Dillmeister" who handed out fresh pickles instead of candy as they paraded about the town. The pickle crazed attendees treated themselves to the infamous pickle ornaments, a pair of festive gherkin earrings or maybe some Chocolate-Covered Sweet Pickles.

Can't wait for the day when we can wear our pickle costumes again!



During the Christmas season, almost 28 LEGO sets are sold each second.





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Administrator of group health, life, dental and long term disability insurance for the Ontario education community.

Fireplace safety tips for a cozy and safe winter

There's nothing quite like cozying up by the fireplace on a cold winter's evening. While many Canadians look forward to the warmth, light and ambiance that comes with a home fireplace, it's important to practice proper fireplace safety.

Review the following fireplace safety tips to ensure that you, your family and your home stay safe this season.

Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article90.



Feeling stressed and anxious? You are not alone.

There is a 'normal' rhythm to the school year that has been disrupted by COVID-19. This is causing many of you to feel stressed, anxious and maybe a little uncertain about the future.



It's important to know this is normal – and it's OK to feel concerned about what comes next. Allowing yourself to acknowledge feelings of stress and anxiety creates an opportunity for learning. It helps you to better understand the world around you and manage your approach to resiliency.

To learn more, visit

<http://www.otipinsurance.com/article89>

Enter for a chance to win a **\$500 gift card!**

Click the link below and subscribe to at least one of our e-communication options for your chance to win.

Get the scoop with this link

[Get the scoop at OTIP](#)



For more examples and details of the tips listed below, visit:
<https://www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/learning-centre/6-tips-protect-finance-pandemic/>

You enrich the lives of students everyday. Let our Financial Specialists help to enrich yours.
www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/get-started



Educators
FINANCIAL GROUP



PLANNING



INVESTING



BORROWING

Spending Lockdown: tips for protecting your finances during the pandemic

The financial impact of COVID-19 is not solely about the lack of money coming in, it's also about the amount of money going out. Here are some tips to lockdown spending and protect your finances during the pandemic:

#1: If you're thinking about tapping into emergency savings, do so strategically

- Determine whether you need to touch those savings.
- Establishing a tighter budget might be all you need to do to maximize your monthly cash flow.
- If a tighter budget is still not enough, start with cash and TFSAs (since there are usually no tax implications).

#2: No emergency savings to tap into? Create an emergency budget instead.

#3: Make smart decisions when it comes to using credit (to keep your credit score in check).

#4: Consider switching to pre-paid products as a further way to keep your credit/spending in check.

#5: File your taxes – particularly if you have a refund coming.

#6 Beware of COVID-19 related financial scams.

For more examples and details of the tips listed visit:
<https://www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/learning-centre/6-tips-protect-finance-pandemic/>



While these are indeed challenging times, we're here for you *every* step of the way.

So, if you're feeling nervous about your investments, are looking for better borrowing options for you and your family, or simply need a little guidance on how to financially navigate through these tough times—call on Educators Financial Group. Regardless of where you are on the pay grid, or what your pension income is in retirement, we can offer you the financial peace of mind you need, along with the genuine investing and lending solutions you're looking for.

For a complimentary consultation, call us at **1.800.263.9541**

or visit

www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/get-started

<https://www.educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/subscribe-to-win/>

Here is a great way to get the whole family involved in giving back to their community at Christmas - especially important this year when many families will need to resort to the Food Banks due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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The OSSTF District 3 Office would like to send our members warm wishes for a safe, healthy, and relaxing Christmas Holiday break.

With this New Year, comes the hope for 2021 to play out much differently than 2020.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Eric, Sue, and Donna.



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

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