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WELLINGTON WORKS #9 v26

Wellington Catholic Teachers

APRIL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

FORD EDU CUTS REVEALED

March Break came and went with a bang. A salvo from the Ford government and a direct attack on our classrooms and students! We all know class size matters. We all know that Special Ed cuts and cuts to other social services will increase our student's learning difficulties. We all know freezing the replacement of our retiring colleagues will mean fresh, energetic and enthusiastic new teachers will not enter the profession. We all know we will lose a generation of teachers who won't benefit from the veterans around us. We all know our teachers will be stressed, overwhelmed, burdened and yes get sick as they try to make up the difference in funding.

We owe our profession all the strength we can muster to educate the public, rally our allies and fight ALL cuts to public services!

Please read inside Wellington Works. Wellington Works is your monthly newsletter. It gives reports on our Contract, Health and Safety, Local and Provincial concerns, and all our upcoming monthly events. In addition, follow us on Twitter, see our Wellington OECTA website and join us on our private Wellington OECTA Facebook Group.

Remember to use our Provincial OECTA media campaign with #CatholicTeachers and #KnowMore. You do great work let everyone know that you are a Catholic Teacher!

Your OECTA Everywhere You Need Us To Be!

- PG 2 WHATS ON THIS MONTH – CUTS CUTS
- PG 3 OFL POWER OF MANY – RTIP BENEFITS
- PG 4 #REDFORED FRIDAYS – RALLY APR 6
- PG 5 SOLIDARITY – WLU REL AQ –
- PG 6 ANNUAL BANQUET AND UNIT AGM AND ELECTIONS
- PG 7 PROV OECTA AGM 2018
- PG 8 WELLINGTON SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK
- PG 9 OTIP INSURANCE
- PG 10 MAT LEAVE WORKSHOP

WELLINGTON OECTA UNIT EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT MARK BERARDINE

VP SECONDARY DAVE DEL DUCA

VP ELEMENTARY PETER STOOP

VP OT LAURINE SOLIGO

TREASURER LINDA DIPIERI

SECRETARY NICOLE HEARN

COUNCILLORS : YVONNE RUNSTEDLER, TIM O'BRIEN, TREVOR KLEIN, JOYCE PELOSO, SHANNON O'CONNOR AND DINA FISHER

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SCHOOL BLITZ VISIT WEEK CONTINUES!

MON APRIL 1 GRIEVANCE STEP 1

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE OPEN

WCDSB MEETING 7 PM

TUES APRIL 2 ETFO OSSTF OECTA 9:30 AM

FSL H R MEETING and STAFFING MEETING PM

WED APRIL 3 MAT LEAVE WORKSHOP 4 PM

THURS APRIL 4 FRI 5 OECTA LEADERSHIP Dave

FRI APRIL 5 BOARD PD DAY

SAT APRIL 6 EDUCATION RALLY QUEEN'S PARK

BOOK YOUR SPOT ON THE BUS!

MON APRIL 8 SPEC COP Mark and Dave

UNIT EXECUTIVE MEETING 4 PM

TUES APRIL 9 GWCSJ 7 PM @ OECTA OFFICE

WED APRIL 10 OECTA PROV STAFF VISIT

CB LOCAL BARGAINING COMMITTEE 4 PM

THURS APRIL 11 GDLC 7 PM @ THE UNIFOR OFFICE

Tim, Marc and Mark

SAT APRIL 13 CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY Noon

SUN APRIL 14 PALM SUNDAY

WED APRIL 17 JOINT STAFFING COM Noon

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE CLOSE

FRI APRIL 19 GOOD FRIDAY

SUN APRIL 21 EASTER

MON APRIL 22 EASTER MONDAY

FRI APRIL 26 OECTA FINANCE COMMITTEE PM

SAT APRIL 27 SUN APRIL 28 REL AQ PART 1 AND 2

@ THE OECTA OFFICE

SAT APRIL 28 DAY OF MOURNING 11 AM

@ GOLDIE MILL PARK WITH GDLC Tim and Mark

MON APRIL 29 REPS AND EXEC 4:30 PM

Staffing and Cuts

The cuts from July 1 to Dec 19 and the more recent cuts to class size at Secondary and at Elem grades 4-8 are going to impact what we can do in Staffing. There are many concerns and there are also many or even more unknowns. We do know many CODE, EPO grants and other special programs were slowly cut all summer and right until the brutal announcements just before Christmas.

We now have a Minister who announced direct cuts to class sizes and placed a hiring freeze.

What does this mean?

The exact numbers are not known at this time though our math gurus have been crunching numbers. We can easily estimate 30-35 lost teaching positions for September 2019. But we don't know what the 'no voluntary job losses' will actually mean for each of us. We can speculate that only retiring teachers will not be replaced. This could cause massive staffing issues as class structures get affected. HOWEVER, we (nor the Board) do not know the exact affect as of yet.

The gov't also believes normal high school classes can easily be taught to everyone for mandatory e-learning classes. This is in addition to the class size increase at secondary to 28. We also do not know if these e-learning teachers would be attached to a school board. We can easily see private contract teachers with no benefits etc replacing our dedicated classroom teachers.

Finally, we really have no idea if they are finished or more cuts will come down through the drain pipes in the form of additional cuts to our GSN's. The Budget is expected to come out on April 11. The GSN's have been delayed but they have informed the Boards they will come out in late April.

Reminders:

Seniority is Board based and not site based

There is only one Perm Seniority List

We have rules for Surplus at the Site (means there is a job)

We have rules for Redundancy (means there is no job)

CAUTION at this time we have not been informed of layoffs.

Staffing timelines will most likely be a little different if we need to place teachers due to restructured class sizes.

Please remember to be sensitive to those you work with or our valued OTs who are in direct harm's way from Ford Nation.

Solidarity An injury to one is an injury to All!



Joyce, Mark, Sarah and Marc with our GDLG colleagues and GWCSJ allies at the OFL Power Of Many Conference.

ETFO, OPSEU, U of G CSA, Wellington Water Watchers with Wellington OECTA!

OFL #PowerOfMany

Last Monday four Wellington OECTA members joined 60 OECTA colleagues in a room filled with over a thousand of Labour and Community Activists. I was proud of our contingent of Joyce Peloso, Marc Sgrignoli and Sarah Robinson. We were part of almost 20 Guelph Labour reps present in the room.

The unity and solidarity in the room was inspiring. If you haven't seen CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn speak check out our Guelph District Labour Council Facebook page! Of special note Ontario Federation of Labour OFL President Chris Buckley pointed out OECTA Liz Stuart and ETFO Sam Hammond sharing a mic and ready to address the assembly in committed solidarity!

This is nothing new locally. Our offices are neighbours. ETFO and OECTA in Guelph work closely together as leaders on our Guelph District Labour Council with Tim O'Brien a corner stone of the Executive.

ANNUAL RTIP BENEFITS WORKSHOP

OTIP's Anita Chamberlain and our Rep for Wellington visited last month and ran through the Benefit Plan available to all members and Education sector workers under RTIP.

Anita's thorough presentation gives you many examples of excellent advice you need to consider as you move from your current stage of life into maybe a little less busy but if it is still busy hopefully it is on your terms!

We are always happy to welcome our colleagues from Admin, the Board Office and our fellow sisters and brothers from CUPE and OSSTF.

Several members gave a personal plug to check out OTIP's car and home insurance plans.

If you are considering retirement please call and we can help out with information and go over the process!



The OECTA Office hosts hundreds of teachers each month.

The community workshop and meeting room is truly an amazing outreach for our Unit.

#RedForEd Fridays

After March Break, after the cuts from the Ford Government and Minister Lisa Thompson, OECTA, OSSTF, CUPE joined ETFO in the wear red on Fridays campaign. Though a symbolic sign of solidarity it inspired teachers and educational workers across the Province. Twitter and Facebook social media platforms showed pictures of the signs of unity among our school staffs. The ground work that began on Monday with Black Monday or as I coined it 'BackinBlack' was echoed in the highest channels as all four affiliates and our educational union partners like CUPE planned together our first major Rally since 2014.

Every Friday OECTA will continue to join the ETFO sponsored movement to wear Red on Fridays. I would like to thank several St John staff members for working with us to get this done. Thanks Tina, Linda and Paula for the contacts and design concept. Thanks to Yvonne who handled all the google forms and size requests. Also thanks to the members of our Status of Women Committee who will help distribute the shirts. Reps are collecting money and a process for new orders will go out shortly for a second batch. Over 200 shirts in a few days!!

Rally For Education at Queens Park

On April 6th all Educational Workers and our OTF unions of OECTA, ETFO, OSSTF and AEFO along with our community allies and OFL brothers and sisters in unions like CUPE will Rally in Support of Education on Queen's Park. With the recent attack on families who have children with Autism we know who Ford really is. He is not For The People. He is anything but. He is For His People. The Conservative Ontario Government does not care about the masses of people. They care about the 1 %. The cuts he is making to Education and Health Care would larger be covered by the carbon tax he is fighting against.



RALLY FOR EDUCATION

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH @ QUEEN'S PARK NOON

BUSES WILL LEAVE FROM THE OECTA OFFICE

FERGUS CW, CENT CVI AND WESTSIDE ORANGEVILLE

Wellington Works...Together By Dave Del Duca

For many of us, our school sites are more than just where we do our work. It's also where we spend time collaborating with colleagues, have candid conversations with friends, seek the support of, and provide support for, those with whom we work and care about, and of course, it's where we work with and teach our students. Our work families include members of our union, but also includes members of other unions, and just like our home families, in our schools we all have different roles and responsibilities in maintaining a fantastic working and learning environment.

With this in mind, it is important that we recognize that these different roles and different union workers have different contracts and different job descriptions than we do. For example, our library technicians are technicians. They are not teachers. Their job description does not allow them to supervise students. As such, they have been advised by their union to take a hard stance NOT to supervise students. If, for example, you wanted to leave your class alone while in the library, this would be putting the library technician in a position where they would be violating their contract. They may, at certain times, do "incidental supervision", however this is not well-defined. You might be able to go make a quick photocopy, or grab a coffee (grab one for the library technician, too!) while your class is in the library, but anything more than 5 minutes, and you could be putting one of your esteemed colleagues in a very difficult position. Respect their time, and respect their workspace the same way you would want your time and your workspace respected.

If there is ever a concern between you and a member of another union, your union reps and leadership are here to help. There are two OSSTF Units in our Board representing EAs and ECEs and another Support Staff and Secretaries. CUPE represents all our Board unionized custodians. We all hope to be treated professionally, and with the right support, work conflicts can be managed in a way that respects all parties involved.

We know we are in a tough fight with the Ford Government right now. We need to stick together: all workers, all unions, in all schools, all over Ontario.

REMINDER : SPRING/SUMMER AQ REL ED PARTS 1 2

Face to Face AQ Religious Education in Catholic Schools Part 1 and 2 will take place this year. Thanks to Yvonne's continued work to ensure a local Face to Face Opportunity is available as Part 1 and 2 have been approved through WLU.

Location : @ the Wellington OECTA Office

Sign up www.wlu.ca/education/aq See Yvonne's post on OECTA Group Board Email

Annual In Appreciation Banquet

Thursday May 30TH at the Italian Canadian Club
Reception begins at 5:30 and Dinner is at 6:15

Join us to honour our Retirees and 25 Year OECTA Members.

All our Reps, Committee Members, and the Executive receive a complimentary ticket. We continue to invite our 2nd year contract teachers as our guests to join the evening.

Please order your tickets through your OECTA Rep or direct from Mark.
If you want to make or join a table for anyone please include that information when you order your tickets and let us know any dietary restrictions.
Tickets may be purchased for \$30.

WELLINGTON UNIT AGM AND ELECTION NOTICE

Monday April 1: Opening of Nominations.

Nominations will open for all available positions as of 8:00 a.m. To be nominated, the candidate must indicate which position he/she is seeking and advise Michael Breadner the Election Chair by school board e-mail.

This year we elect the President, Treasurer (both 2 year terms) and the Secretary and Councillors (all one year terms).

Note that the OT VP and the OT Councillor are nominated and elected separately from this election and in September.

Wednesday April 17 (5:00PM)-Close of Nominations. Notifying by email is the preferred method, this way there will be an electronic record of all nominations.

Thursday April 18 (4:00 P.M.)- Candidate Profiles due for Wellington Works.

Candidate profiles will be published the following week. Candidate speeches will also be digitally recorded the week after profiles are due. Speeches will be made available for viewing on the Wellington OECTA Website.

E-Voting will take place as necessary for the positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary only.

E-Voting Online May 8-9:

E-Voting will open 12:01 a.m. May 8 to 5:00 p.m. May 9. There will be an opportunity to vote for the positions of: President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Thursday May 16: AGM and Councilor Elections. **The Councilors for the unit executive shall be elected by traditional paper ballot at the annual general meeting of the unit on Thursday May 16 at 4:30 at the OECTA Office.**

NOTE: the positions available to be elected this year are: President (2 year term) online vote, Treasurer (2 year term) online vote, Secretary (1 year term) online vote, 6 Councilors (1 year term) paper ballot at AGM. All candidates nominated for 'titled' positions will be able to "drop-down" to a Councilor's position as per by-laws. The two year terms run from July 1 2019 until June 30 2021. All OECTA members are eligible to vote for all positions. Please direct all enquiries directly to Michael Breadner Election Chair.

PROVINCIAL AGM PHOTOS AND NOTES



At the AGM Marshall Jarvis was honoured by Toronto Elementary with his own bobble head. This will be his last AGM as General Secretary as he retires in the summer. Wellington, thanks to Trevor's lucky raffle ticket will be the home of the bonus Jarvis Bobble Head.

Our delegation once again was active at the AGM as we brought another full delegation and for the four years we also had the privilege of having a member represent Wellington as a Provincial Committee Chair as Yvonne is the current Chair of the Women's Committee.

In honour, of the first year of OECTA's Fempower Conference we wore pink shirts with Fempower on the back.

Our delegation with Vests and Fempower Shirts



If you have not been to a Provincial AGM please consider giving up the first weekend of your March Break to help guide OECTA programs and policies. Long days but great comaraderie!

GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN GREAT TEACHERS FEEL VALUED YOU GET GREAT SCHOOLS!

HAPPY TEACHERS = HAPPY STUDENTS = HAPPY SCHOOLS

UNIONS DO GREAT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES!

IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS WE HAVE RAN AND / OR HOSTED MANY EVENTS. WE HOSTED GUELPH LABOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS, GUELPH WELLINGTON COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY GUELPH CHAPTER INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY WEB MEETING, AN OPEN HOUSE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH MPP MIKE SCHREINER, OUR MONTHLY MEAL AT THE WELCOME IN DROP IN CENTRE (SISTER CHRISTINE'S).



OUR MONTHLY DROP IN CENTRE MEALS HAVE BEEN A REAL HIT

Over 100 Wellington Catholic Teachers, family members or friends have helped serve meals at the Drop In Centre this school year. That is a tremendous amount of support for those who have less! We try to book the third or sometimes fourth weekend in the month to help them out. Teachers donate, bring in food, cook, serve and clean up. The meals we supply also feed two programs, the Mens and Womens shelters, later in the day so no food goes unwelcome or wasted. I know I speak for everyone who has helped we get more out of it spiritually than the actual work we do for others. However, Gail, Emmanuel and all the regulars love to see Wellington Catholic come in as we bring lots of food, lots of helpers and lots of smiles! Let me know if you are interested.



The Stafford Family

At the Drop In Centre

Andrea and Sean's kids

Stealing the Dessert Show!

OTIP INSURANCE 5 Easy Ways to Refresh Your Home for Spring on a Budget

With the cold weather behind us,

THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY REC'D AND PRINTED PRIOR TO SUNDAY'S SNOW STORM LOL it's the perfect time to spruce up your home's interior in preparation for the warm and bright season ahead.

To learn more about 5 easy ways you can freshen up your home this spring on a budget, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article38.



How to Save Money on Your Home and Auto Insurance

It's important to have enough coverage on your home and auto policies so you can get back to where you started in the event of a total loss – but that doesn't mean you should be paying more than you have to. There are a number of factors that can reduce the cost of your insurance, some of which could save you hundreds of dollars.

Visit www.otipinsurance.com/article37 to discover home and auto insurance savings and discount options that you may be eligible for.

WELLINGTON WORKS IS YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OECA EVERYWHERE YOU NEED US TO BE!

WELLINGTON OECTA MATERNITY LEAVE WORKSHOP



WED APRIL 3 @ THE WELLINGTON OECTA OFFICE
Ignatius Jesuit Centre 5420 Hwy 6 North
Main Entrance Suite 200

4 PM Gather and Greetings

4:15-5:30 Workshop followed by Q and A

Spouses are welcome Snacks will be served

RSVP Mark at oecta.wellington@gmail.com

There have been several new changes for you to review