

WELLINGTON
OECTA

UNIT EXECUTIVE

2014-2015

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WELLINGTON
WORKS

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ONTARIO ENGLISH

Catholic
Teachers

ASSOCIATION

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

President's Message

Many of you have been working hard getting your new classrooms ready. Others have been feverishly designing their lessons and getting ready for the first week. Still others without classrooms are preparing their offices, schedules and getting ready to provide support for our classroom teachers in a variety of roles. Finally another large number of Occasional Teachers are sprucing up on their skills, preparing to balance their lives around whether they will get a call each day and generally hoping to land a contract of some form. It is definitely an exciting yet anxious time of year.

Looking forward to the year we have a number of areas of concern for OECTA members. We have a contract (that was forced on us) ready to expire on August 31st. We have a new process for bargaining that means our almost 700 odd members locally will be a small factor in our larger 35,000+ membership. In addition there is a municipal and trustee election for us to remember. Though we usually don't consider the municipal elections too important we should remember the strong province wide union movement that helped defeat the Hudak Tories. We also need to remember that the Trustees do impact our careers and our vocations. There are certainly many unknowns as we start the school year.

Internally our Unit will be continuing to find ways to increase participation in OECTA. We made many new opportunities for members last year and will continue to examine ways to bring our members together, give members a voice in their union and provide opportunities to get involved. To help improve our Unit we encourage everyone to think about joining a committee.

Be sure to check out Wellington Works each month to keep up to date on our OECTA issues and events. Stay in touch with the Unit office and your Reps. Follow us on Facebook and log into our website to see all our events. Each year we encourage students to get involved in their school. We encourage you to get involved in your union. The OECTA Release Officers remain committed to prompt responses to your emails and calls.

We wish you another great year in what is truly one of the most rewarding professions albeit also one of the most challenging. Have a great September 2nd!

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President's Message

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OECTA BEGINNING TEACHER'S CONFERENCE

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!
THE OECTA BEGINNING TEACHERS CONFERENCE
HAS BEEN MOVED TO OCT 3 AND OCT 4, 2014**

PLEASE REPLY TO MARK, PETER OR DAVID IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Going forward, the Beginning Teachers Conference will now occur in the Fall, each year. This had its genesis with the Provincial Beginning Teachers Committee in the hopes of assisting teachers to implement conference ideas and strategies as soon as they return to school

Friday October 3 and Saturday October 4, 2014
Toronto Airport Hilton Hotel

OECTA Workshops

We are in the process of booking our workshops through the Provincial Office. If you are interested in any of the following workshops please contact Peter Stoop:

Maternity Leave Workshop

An after school workshop 4:00 - 6:00

Know Your Pension Plan Workshop

Saturday Workshop

Both site and dates to be announced.

These workshops are just a few available from our OECTA Provincial Staff. For additional topics log in to your OECTA member's website and check out what workshops they offer. If you see a topic you would like to attend send your request to Peter or your Staff Rep so they can bring that request to the PD committee and the Executive.

To log in to the Provincial OECTA member's website all you need is your OECTA number.

BISHOP'S DINNER

This year the Bishop's Dinner will be held on Thursday October 9th. Tickets can be reserved by calling Diana Karkut at the Board Office. The proceeds will support the Guelph Lake Interpretive Centre, Michael House, Sacred Ground Campaign at Ignatius Jesuit Centre, the Guelph Wish Fund for Children and the Welcome In Drop In Centre.

September Dates

*Monday Sept 1st**Labour Day Picnic**Riverside Park 12:00—3:00**Mon Sept 8th Tues Sept 9th**Special Council of Presidents**Toronto**Mark, David, Peter, Tim**Thurs Sept 11th**Exec Meeting 4:15**Thurs Sept 18th**OTBU Gen Meeting/Elections**Tues-Wed Sept 23-24**OTIP Benefits Workshop**Toronto**Mark, David and Peter**Wed-Thurs Sept 24-25**OECTA Grievance Workshop**Toronto**Mark, David, and Peter**Thurs-Fri Sept 25-26**OTBU Presidents Workshop**Toronto**OTBU President**Monday Sept 29th**Exec Workshop AM**REPS Workshop PM*

BE WARY BE WISE

We all know there are many cautions we need to be aware of as teachers when conducting ourselves both in the classroom and during extra-curricular activities. We all have been educated on leaving doors open, never being alone with students, having witnesses if you need to discuss problems with students, sending all school and student funds to the office etc.

But there are some others that we also need to be aware of.

OECTA cautions you against communicating with students in any form of technology. Cell texts, emails and facebook can all be misinterpreted and are easily manipulated against teachers. These new technologies are wonderful tools but all teachers need to protect themselves.

OECTA, OTF and the affiliates all caution you against tutoring students. Tutoring has placed members in conflict with other teachers. Teachers,

even when tutoring still, have professional standards to maintain with their colleagues. You must still follow our code of ethics.

Finally teachers are advised not to tutor students in your school and teachers should never tutor students who are in their own classes. If you do you can place yourself in jeopardy and open yourself to College of Teacher investigations. If you have questions please email the office.

Wellington OECTA Committees

We will be selecting members for our local OECTA committees at the Executive meetings on September 11th and 29th for the 2014-2015 school year. We still need a few volunteers for most committees, Please reply to any of the Executive if you are interested in serving your fellow members.

For a full description of these committees and their duties please check our website www.oectawellington.com

Collective Bargaining Update

There has not been much change since the election in June. The Liberal government and Bill 122 forces all of our Teacher Affiliates to enter into Provincial bargaining. We do know that the same budget that was already proposed prior to the election contained no raises. It contained a continued roll back for all teachers still on the grid and a delay in recognizing any additional qualifications.

The Unions, the Government, the Boards and Trustees all have to sit together and decide what areas would be under Provincial bargaining and what areas will remain under our Local bargaining. There was no bargaining to speak of through July and most of August. In the last week our Provincial Negotiating Team began sitting with the Board and Ministry Teams.

On Monday Sept 8th and Tuesday Sept 9th there will be a Special Council of Presidents. Mark, David, Peter and Tim will attend for Wellington. After that we may have a clearer picture as to what to expect from Provincial bargaining and we may even be ready to start to negotiate locally. The Executive will meet on Thursday Sept 11th for a debriefing. Whatever information we are legally able to disclose will be done as soon as we are allowed.

Our latest information does not point to any settlements anytime soon, stay tuned.

Occasional Teacher Bargaining Unit Elections

The Occasional Teachers will have their Annual General Meeting and Elections on Thursday, September 18th. The following positions are up for election:

OT Executive (President, Secretary, Treasurer) and the reps to reps council. The OTBU President automatically becomes the VP OT on the Unit Executive.

Nominations for all of the above positions are due to the Election Chair, Peter Marzo, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday September 12, 2014.

Please make arrangements to attend this important meeting.

Annual General Meeting
 For
 Occasional Teacher Members Of
 Wellington OECTA Occasional Teacher Bargaining Unit
 To be held
 Thursday September 18, 2014
 At the Wellington OECTA Unit Office
 Orchard Park Business Complex
 St. Ignatius Property Highway # 6
 3:40 Refreshments 4:00 sharp meeting/elections

WFMP CONFERENCE 2014

PROCLAIMING JOY ON THE JOURNEY

Presented by Catholic Curriculum Corporation

OCT 23 TO 25 2014

INTERNATIONAL PLAZA HOTEL TORONTO AIRPORT

Teachers wishing to apply for this OECTA sponsored Conference should send their name to their site/school Rep. The Reps will forward each name to the OECTA PD Committee Chair Peter Stoop. OECTA will sponsor at least one teacher from each school provided they qualify for funding. Please apply early as the due date is _____

Keynote Speaker John Allen Jr.

CNN Senior Vatican Analyst—Assoc Editor Boston Globe

Association Rep Elections : Meetings must be called in advance with notice and conducted with only members present. The Association Reps for all school and non-site members should be completed by September 12th.

TEACHER ANNUAL LEARNING PLANS

As we begin another school year it is easy to get behind as a host of deadlines appear in our mail-boxes and on our desks. One in particular is your Annual Learning Plan. Though these are more important for those undergoing a Performance Appraisal it is also required by all teachers every year.

There is help!

Check out the Provincial Website for some ideas to help. You can also talk to a colleague to help develop your own ideas. Remember take charge of your Professional Development by filling out your ALP.