



WELLINGTON
WORKS #6 25

Wellington
Catholic
Teachers

FEBRUARY
2018

OFFICE PHONE 519-763-3043 PRESIDENT MARK BERARDINE CELL 519-400-5361

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NEW SEMESTER/TERM

We are into February and depending on your attitude the glass of the year is either half full or half empty. This is also how many of us feel with our energy levels. In our visits in December to the schools many of our colleagues were feeling more than half empty! Hopefully we were able to get a little energy back over the Christmas Break but in reality January hits us like a Tsunami as reports and exams crash into us.

Across the province teachers are reeling with increased LTD and sick days. When the shortages of daily supply teachers and missed planning blocks and added oncall emergencies are added in it means increased workload and decreased time to catch your breath let alone get ahead of the pile of work on your desk! Look out for each other. Take advantage of offers of help. Ask for help from your colleagues and OECTA reps. If you are run down you may well be making yourself feel worse and burn out is around the corner. EAP is available for teachers to seek help and talk out any problems.

Look out for each other, check in on each other and call OECTA.

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

Your OECTA Everywhere You Need Us To Be!

FEB 1 AND FEB 2 SECONDARY PD DAYS

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WELLINGTON OECTA UNIT EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT MARK BERARDING

VP SECONDARY YVONNE RUNSTEDLER

VP ELEMENTARY PETER STOOP

VP OT TIM O'BRIEN

TREASURER LINDA DIPIERI

SECRETARY NICOLE HEARN

COUNCILLORS : LAURENCE VIGNOLA,
LAURINE SOLIGO, TREVOR KLEIN, MARC
SGRIGNOLI, AND DINA FISHER



ACROSS CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

15 AND FAIRNESS

The Ontario Provincial Minimum Wage was increased to 14 and it will increase to 15 dollars an hour. Why is this important to us?

This is the results of years of Labour lobbying both at the Canadian and Ontario levels and at the local labour councils in Ontario. Locally our Guelph District Labour Council has been in letter campaigns, awareness campaigns and working with our community partners in the Social Justice circles. OECTA locally sits on all these groups.

Is it perfect? No. However, at the bottom of every discussion is the acknowledgement that our minimum wage earners and their families are in dire need of an increase. The labour community and our partners will continue to work for improvements to the fairness of the system.

YOUR OECTA YOUR UNION

From time to time our Reps and other concerned members let us know that sometimes members do not understand the benefits of being in a union or what OECTA does. Even 'I don't agree to being in the union at all.'

Though we do our best to educate our members sometimes their bias, deep seated opinions and family view points all form their ideal of the worth of OECTA.

If for nothing else compare your wage to the world and you will see that belonging to OECTA has given you 96,000 reasons why OUR UNION is so important to us.



Tim O'Brien waving our flag with GDLC

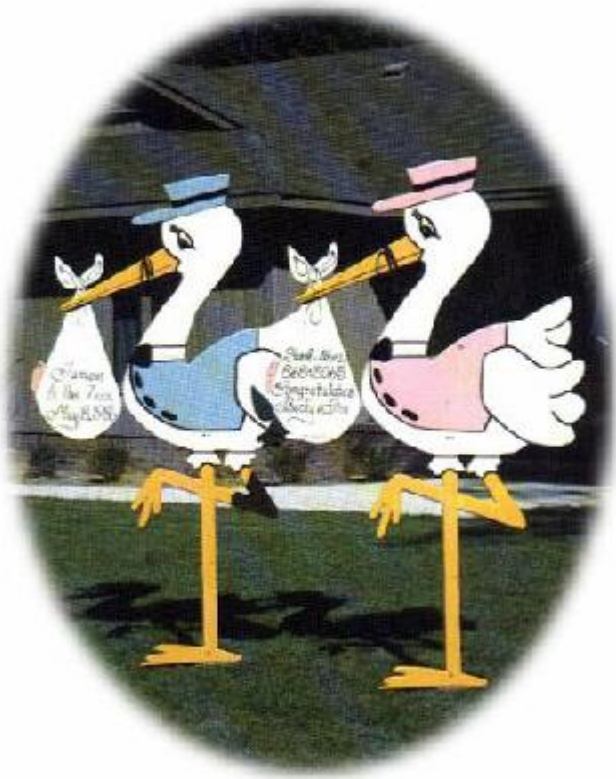


EUCHRE NIGHT AT THE OECTA MEETING ROOM

However, if that is not enough of a reason I submit the following additional reasons why your union is important:

- *Mat Leave *Benefits *Sick Days *EAP
- *Unpaid Leaves *4/5 Leaves *Health and Safety
- *Planning Time *Classroom Caps *Supervision Caps
- *Pension – Perhaps the Best Plan Available O TPP

We as a whole are only as strong as each member in Solidarity



MAT LEAVE WORKSHOP

WED MARCH 21 @ THE OECTA OFFICE

4 PM TO 5:30 PM

Planning or already on the way

Then this workshop is for you!

We will discuss and guide you on

Benefits, Pensions, EI, Seniority

New Federal Changes

And much much more

There are important points to consider!

RSVP Mark



RTIP BENEFIT WORKSHOP @ THE OECTA OFFICE

WED MARCH 28 4:00 GATHER 4:30 START

LIGHT SUPPER IS PROVIDED WORKSHOP ENDS 7 pm

BE PREPARED FOR YOUR BENEFITS AFTER YOU RETIRE

Please RSVP Mark

WELLINGTON OECTA AGM DELEGATES

Thanks to our dedicated members who have volunteered to attend the Provincial AGM in Toronto over the start of the March Break. The Provincial AGM elects the Provincial Executive and also sets our union fees and the Provincial Budget. For the first time in my memory the fee debate will not be an issue as we went to a combination percentage and base fee last year. The elections so far are relatively quiet so we will be dealing with quite a few Resolutions.

We will continue to have an Open Delegate Meeting if anyone wants to join our delegation to review the Resolutions and discuss our Unit's strategy at the AGM and who if anyone we wish to endorse for elections.

Monday March 5 @ the OECTA Office @ 4 pm

CONTRACT 101**Know Your Collective Agreement Rights**

If you are called to your administrator's office for any reason you have the right to ask what is the nature of the request for a meeting.

In many, and hopefully most, cases there are very valid non-confrontational or disciplinary reasons you may be called down to the office. This could be about a workshop, an upcoming school field trip or extra-curricular event, to set up a meeting or to give you the heads up on a student or parent.

However, in some cases, especially in the nature of a parent complaint, a discussion on your attendance or lateness, a request as to why you missed a voluntary event, etc, you have the right to say:

What is the nature of the meeting?

I would like to bring my OECTA Rep with me to take note or call the OECTA Office for assistance.

Never answer questions without seeking an OECTA Rep if dealing with an outside agency.

**CONTINUED CONCERN OVER WELLNESS**

The nature of our health and wellness for our teachers is becoming an increasing concern for OECTA. Across the province we are seeing many Presidents say more members are hitting the LTD mark. Locally this year we have seen many teachers having to use their sick days for a variety of reasons.

If you need to discuss your sick days your short term sick days and top up and how to use the Board Medical Form please talk to the OECTA Presidents for correct advice prior to going to your physician.

OECTA Meeting and Workshop Room

Our OECTA room your family event!

As many of our members know our expansion of the office over the last three years has brought hundreds of our teachers into their OECTA Office. In Oct we had 602 attendees visit the office and in Nov over 500. This has given invaluable and priceless contact between the OECTA President Release Officers and our teachers. We appreciate our coordinators and the Board Program Department for using the OECTA office.

Our room is also available on weekends for baptisms, birthdays, showers and other family events.

Please contact Mark



ONTARIO TEACHERS INSURANCE PLAN (OTIP)

As a member, you have access to the following OTIP products and services:

[OTIP Group Benefits](#)



OTIP makes it easy for you to find the forms you need online or get answers to questions. By logging in to our secure self-service tools, you can review your benefits, update your information, or make a claim. [Click here](#) to log in.

[OTIP Car & Home Insurance](#)



Get the protection you need and the value you deserve with exclusive group savings on auto and home insurance. And you can save even more with OTIP's special discounts. [Click here to get a quote today, and see how much you could save!](#)

[OTIP Retirement Health, Dental and Travel Insurance](#)



OTIP offers health, dental and travel insurance for retirees. The Retired Teachers Insurance Plan (RTIP) offers the most flexible health, dental and travel insurance available to the retired education community. Simply choose the plan that best meets your needs. [Click here](#) to learn more about RTIP.

[OTIP Bursary Program](#)



OTIP offers 12 academic bursaries of \$1,500 every year. The bursary program promotes post-secondary education for our insured members and their relatives by investing in their future. [Click here](#) to learn more about the OTIP bursary program.



The CAREpath Navigation System, Survivor Support Program and Cancer Information Line help those living with cancer navigate the complex health care system so they can receive the best treatment and support. [Click here](#) to learn more about CAREpath.

Edvantage

A savings program available exclusively to Ontario's education community. Get discounts on travel, electronics, clothing and more! [Click here](#) to start saving.

FeelingBetterNow®

Connecting Mental Health Problems to Solutions

A web-based mental health care program that guides members and their care provider (whether it be a counsellor, psychologist, or family physician) to identify emotional and mental health issues as early as possible. Getting the right diagnosis and treatment helps members feel better sooner. [Click here](#) to learn more about FeelingBetterNow®.

UPCOMING DATES

SAT FEB 3 BOARD WELLNESS WORKSHOP 9:30-11:30

TUES FEB 6 OECTA WELLNESS CON LONDON 6 pm

WED FEB 7 OECTA WELLNESS CON LONDON

THURS FEB 8 GDLC MEETING @ UNIFOR 7 pm

SAT FEB 10 COMPASSION FATIGUE WORKSHOP

MON FEB 12 YOUNG AUTHOR DUE AT SCHOOL

MON FEB 12 EXEC MEETING 4 PM GREEN LEADER

TUES FEB 13 GWCSJ @ THE OECTA OFFICE 7 pm

TUES FEB 13 THEOLOGY ON TAP

WED FEB 14 ASH WEDNESDAY

MON FEB 19 FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY

TUES FEB 20 CATHOLICITY COMMITTEE Noon VILLA

TUES FEB 20 OECTA POLITICAL ACTION CON

TUES FEB 20 YOUNG AUTHOR TO THE UNIT

WED FEB 21 OECTA POLITICAL ACTION CON

WED FEB 21 LOCAL SECONDARY COMMITTEE 4 pm

THURS FEB 22 WLU FAC ED MEETING 11:30 am

FRI FEB 23 WELLINGTON PD WORKSHOP

MON FEB 26 REPS MEETING 4:30 pm

THURS MAR 1 OECTA LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FRI MAR 2 OECTA LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FRI MAR 2 GTA OECTA PRES MEETING

MON MAR 5 OPEN MEETING AGM DELEGATION

FRI MARCH 9 TO MON MARCH 12

PROVINCIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRI MARCH 9 ENJOY MARCH BREAK!

SAVE THE DATES

WED MARCH 21 MAT LEAVE WORKSHOP

WED MARCH 28 RTIP RETIREE BENEFITS WORKSHOP

YOUR WELLINGTON OECTA AGM

DELEGATION

Mark Berardine

Yvonne Runstedler

Peter Stoop

Tim O'Brien (GTA OT Rep)

Laurence Vignola

Laurine Soligo

Trevor Klein

Marc Sgrignoli

Dina Fisher

Julia Sgrignoli

Becka Dunstan

David Del Duca

Ben Haynes

Aaron Huybens

Please join the Presidents in thanking these members for representing Wellington during their holiday time at the start of March Break!

The Wellington Wellness Committee is pleased to bring you this FREE workshop presented by Carizon Family & Community Services; Resolutions: Setting goals and making changes Have you been wanting to make positive, healthy lifestyle changes, but can't get past the "want to" stage?

At this workshop you can learn how to set positive, empowering, and realistic goals, and gather the tools needed to achieve them. Through Cognitive Behavioural Therapy you will learn how to turn your "want to" into healthy, long term changes.

Where: OECTA Office

When: Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 Time: 9:30 – 11:30 am (light refreshments will be served) Open to all employees

RSVP to judith.skinner@wellingtoncdsb.ca