

WELCOME BACK!

By Dave Warda (TBU President) & Erin Leonard
(OTBU President)

We are Back!

District 14 Teachers and Occasional Teachers have returned to school, and we are already rolling! This month has been packed with start-up energy and additional challenges that have led to a busier start up than normal. We want to thank all the members who have taken the time to get informed on the provincial bargaining pathway, getting out to vote, and helping others understand the stakes in this round of negotiations.

Now that we know the result of the vote, we can focus even more on the issues that face us here in District 14.

Over the past few years we have been working together in the District to provide opportunities for all our members. This year will be no different. On top of all the work we do to connect regularly with your Branch Presidents and bring issues of concern to the employer almost every day, we have a lot of events and programs planned to support you in your work.

Professional Development funds (application available on our website), and free PD is offered at different times throughout the year. We have our Pension Workshop booked in November. We will continue to host book clubs this winter, and we are working with all the local affiliates to host Education Forums to highlight the cuts in education funding. There are many resources available to all members through our lending library, and on the provincial website, under the Resource Centre, as well.

We are actively planning a big event in the spring to honour our retirees and local District 14 Award winners.

The school year is a marathon, and you need to know that it is okay to pace yourself. If you need help, please ask. There are additional resources and supports available to you - just reach out to us!

Here's what's up!

- 1 - Welcome Back!
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Upcoming Events

- Oct 12 - TBU PSC
- Oct 16 - OTBU Exec
- Oct 25 - TBU Exec
- Nov 2 - TBU PSC
- Nov 6 - Education Forum
- Nov 14 - Pension Workshop
- Nov 15 - District Council
- Nov 20 - OTBU Exec
- Nov 20 - 24 - OFL Convention
- Nov 22 - TBU Exec & Council
- Nov 29 - Egale Webinar
- Dec 7 - TBU PSC
- Dec 11 - OTBU Exec
- Dec 13 - TBU Exec & Council



BRANCH PRESIDENTS' TRAINING

By Dave Warda



On October 5 -6th, all the Branch Presidents and the TBU Executive met at Elmhirst Resort for training and the second council meeting of the year. In our short time together we covered a lot of ground.

Roxanne Beauchamp from the Provincial Executive came to address the group, and we also heard from Erin Leonard the OTBU President, Randy Banderob, and Munib Sajjad of the Provincial Office.

We had lively discussions about several issues and explored resources to support all members of OSSTF D14. Highlights included:

- Provincial Updates on Bargaining and the Pathway Forward.
- Review of our present contract.
- Workshop discussion on Professional Boundaries
- Difficult Conversations with colleagues, admin and parents.
- Review of the comprehensive services offered to teachers covered by OTIP.
- Robust discussion about the issues you are facing at your schools.

If you are interested in taking a step closer to involvement in the organization that is responsible for protecting and advancing the teaching profession, please talk to your Branch President. We can all make small contributions to making our union more effective and powerful.

Big thank you to all the folks at Elmhirst for hosting us, and to everyone who took time to engage on behalf of their colleagues.

Are you receiving your correct pay?

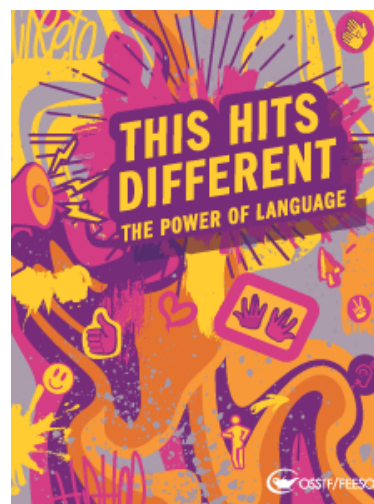
By Trish Bevan

– Make sure you are placed on the pay grid correctly. All applications for pay rating statements go to QECO and are then submitted to secondary_staffing@kprdsb.ca. (Both TBU and OTBU) There are strict deadlines in the Collective Agreement (CA) that you must meet if you did a course or AQ to move up on the grid. (TBU L6, OTBU L18.03) Also, if you have other teaching experience or related teaching experience there is CA language on the process to get your experience adjudicated, which may result in a higher grid placement. (TBU L7, OTBU L18.06)



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

OSSTF/FEESO invites student writers and artists to submit creative work exploring this year's theme: This Hits Different - The Power of Language. Judging will be held at the school, district, regional and provincial levels. Eight provincial winners will be awarded \$1000 each in prizes and will be invited to our Annual General Meeting in March, where a video showcasing their work will be screened. More information can be found at osstf.on.ca.



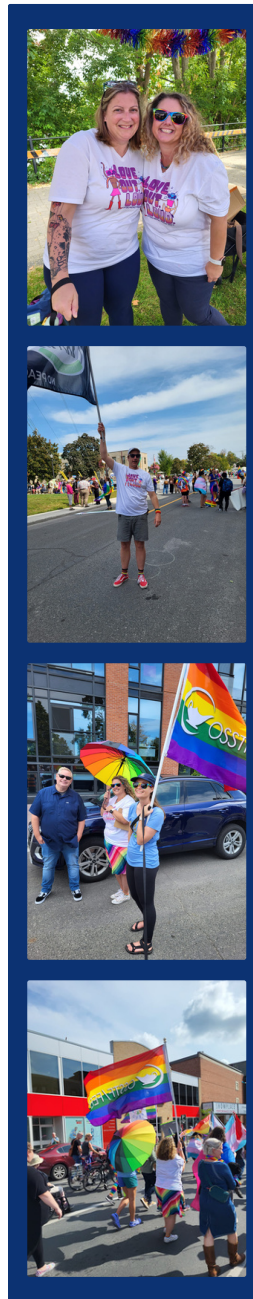
Peterborough Pride!

D14 had the honour of participating in the 20th Peterborough-Nogojiwanong Pride Week celebrations!

On Saturday September 23rd, District 14 members gathered at Peterborough City Hall to to march and were greeted by large crowds of supporters lining the streets. The day culminated, for District 14, with Pride in the Park, where we were able to meet many participants at our booth.

This year's theme was Love.Out.Loud. The theme, "describes how queer folks aspire to exist in the world. It's a rallying cry for visibility and safety as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community faces threats from those who wish to silence us."

District 14 has supported the parade and participated in the event for over a decade. Given the recent rise and display of intolerance in the I Million March 4 Children, it was even more inspiring to see how the community has embraced Peterborough Pride. We have seen it grow from a few tentative participants to over 1,000 strong. We will continue to participate and support this and other pride events because we must demonstrate that our schools and our workplaces are ours to keep safe for everyone.



Health & Safety

by Chris Clarke

Hello D14 from your health and safety representatives.

Your safety at work is paramount. You need to feel free to report any concerns you have regarding both the physical structures of your workspace and hazards that emerge from your daily interactions with students. Please reach out to any of the follow OSSTF members with any concerns about health and safety anytime. If you do not feel safe in reporting a hazard, please reach out specifically to a certified rep.

OSSTF TBU VP and certified H&S rep:
Chris Clarke

OSSTF OTBU President and certified
H&S rep: Erin Leonard

OSSTF certified H&S rep: Melanie Parkin
Adam Scott: Rob Flindall

BHS: Erin Elliott

CDHS: Brandon Gay

CIS: Sean Sullivan or Colline Bell

CCSS: Taylor Ellis

Clarke HS: Mark Loster

CCI: Elise Thompson

Courtice: Mark Watson

Crestwood: Mike Leeson

ENSS: Betty-Lynne Bird

Kenner: Matt Amyotte

Norwood: Nell Corrigan

PACE: Jon Hanak

PHHS: Randie Houghton

TASSS: Dave Donald

Please be careful out there, and know your rights to refuse unsafe work!



Professional Development Fund

by Erin Leonard

Every year OSSTF D14 TBU and OTBU sets aside funds to assist members with their professional development goals, and this year is no different!

Members can apply for reimbursement for professional development taken from May 2023 until the end of April 2024. Reimbursement occurs in May 2024 for up to \$300 per person.

Reimbursement could assist covering the costs of; course fees, textbooks, registration fees, mileage/travel expenses, and accommodation.

Past examples of PD include;

- AOs
- ABQs
- Conferences
- Books
- First Aid Training
- Museum entrance
- Webinars
- and more!

It is important to highlight in your application how the professional development will assist you in your career!

Applications and Guidelines can be found on our website.

Nominate a Colleague!



Nominate a colleague who is doing outstanding work in the community. Send an email to info@osstfd14.ca with your nomination and a brief explanation of the work your colleague is doing!

We will choose one winner per region (Clarington, Northumberland, and Peterborough) for a \$25 grocery gift card or donation in kind and we will recognize their work in our next newsletter.

CONTACT INFORMATION



TBU President Dave Warda
tbupresident@osstfd14.ca



OTBU President Erin Leonard
otbupresident@osstfd14.ca



TBU Vice-President Chris Clarke
vp@osstfd14.ca



TBU Member Protection Officer
Trish Bevan
mpo@osstfd14.ca

Admin Assistant Deborah Bevan
info@osstfd14.ca

