

May 24, 2018
D/BU #145/2017-2018



Common Threads VII Call for Team Members

To: Presidents and All Members
From: Harvey Bischof, President

For Action

Common Threads is the name of OSSTF's international solidarity program which offers members the opportunity to travel and conduct research resulting in the creation of new progressive curriculum on critical issues. Our first five projects dealt with important themes which resonated with our students: ***Globalization: Sweatshops and the clothes we wear***, 2002; ***From Canada to South Africa: Combating HIV/AIDS Together***, 2004; ***Tapped Out: The World Water Crisis***, 2006; ***Hungry for Change: Food and Food Security***, 2008; ***Full Circle: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ways of Knowing***, 2013; and ***The Sustainable Society***, 2016. These proved to be popular subjects which allowed our members to engage in discussions about international development and the choices we make in the developed world and especially in Canada.

Building on the success of previous projects, OSSTF is announcing its seventh Common Threads theme: **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Society**

Advances in technology, specifically in the area of AI, has generated a great deal of comment and debate. Claims of utopian possibilities and dystopian inevitability are reported more frequently in the media. Very little curriculum material is directly available to assist our members in preparing students for a future where AI may become increasingly interwoven in their lives.

Applicants to this project must be members in good standing and be prepared to commit to the entire project which involves orientation, travel, and then considerable volunteer follow up work to complete the Common Threads resource. A current and valid passport will be required. OSSTF will cover the cost of travel and accommodation as necessary to complete the project. We are looking for a team of five members from OSSTF and preference will be given to applicants with a combination of the following:

- Intermediate to advanced users of digital and electronic technology;
- Knowledge and awareness of social, political, labour and/or technological issues;
- An understanding of current and creative teaching strategies;
- Demonstrated excellence in curriculum writing;
- Skills in photography, film/video making and editing;
- Good health to withstand a rigorous journey
- Willingness to volunteer for all aspects of the project which includes the completion of resources and training of members (minimum of one year commitment)



Members must send a current curriculum vitae (CV) together with the application, a covering letter and a letter of recommendation from their local bargaining unit president or district president. The common threads application may be downloaded at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/common-threads-application>.

For further information, contact Rob Dubyk by telephone: 1.800.267.7867 / 416.751.8300 or by email: rob.dubyk@osstf.ca.

Deadline for applications is 5:00 PM on Wednesday June 13, 2018.

Final selection of the OSSTF portion of the team will be made by the Provincial Executive.

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