



The newsletter for Educational Services Officers



### ESO Handbook online

For Educational Services Officers who want to access information and resources online, the ESO handbook can now be found on the provincial OSSTF/FEESO website. You will have to log in to your MyOSSTF account and then look under “Services” → “All Members” → “ESO Handbook”.

### PD Survey

The Professional Growth & Training subcommittee of ESC worked hard to come up with a survey tool to help determine what types of professional development our members want. The online survey asks questions about potential topics as well as when and how they would like the PD delivered.

The survey only takes a few moments to complete and is available in English and French.

As your bargaining unit’s Educational Services Officer, please encourage as many of your members as possible to complete the survey. Please ask your local executive to complete it and have them send it out to members as well. If you have a local newsletter or bargaining unit social media account, see if you can promote the survey through these as well.

The more members that complete the survey, the better our understanding of their PD we will have!

English survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/55TTTGR](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/55TTTGR)

French survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/55LZD3S](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/55LZD3S)

### Reporting your Bargaining Unit or District’s PD

Remember to contact your Regional Coordinator to let them know any PD that is planned or has been delivered to the members in your District!



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## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS' CONFERENCE—APRIL 12–13, 2018

A summary by Donna Skinn

There was much to be learned at this year's ESO conference held at the Westin Hotel in Toronto. ESOs came from all over the province to gather information and make contacts with others.

On Thursday, the delegates were presented with information on two professional learning opportunities—the Teacher Learning Co-operative (TLC) and the Teacher Learning and Leadership (TLLP).

The TLC focuses on professional collaboration and is funded up to \$4,000 per team. The fields of study include technology, kindergarten, math, wellbeing of educators/students, etc. Ongoing assistance and expertise is available. Submissions for last year had to be in for October 2017, but there is time to be considering this opportunity for next year. Information is found at: [www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-co-op-tlc](http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/teacher-learning-co-op-tlc)

The TLLP is a Ministry of Education initiative that provides funding for educators who want to play a leadership role in creating resources that can be used to benefit students or nurture educational leadership. The funding is available for any teaching/learning skills in any subject area, and it also provides ongoing assistance/expertise. There is up to \$30,000 available for each project. Submissions for last year were due in November, but this initiative has existed since 2007, and educators could be working on proposals for next year's funding.

Information about the program can be found at: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/tllp.html)

*Working Together: Effective Educational Teams*, an Educational Services workshop, was presented in English by Jeff Barber and Penny Huettlin and in French by Linda Rodgers and Marie-Claude Thibeault. The workshop began with a lively “contest” where tables attempted to complete jigsaw puzzles, but had to rely on the other tables for missing pieces to complete their puzzle. Afterwards, participants were able to work together and discuss many different scenarios where educational workers would have to work together to solve a problem, helping to show the advantages of relying on the strengths of others in our employment to effectively complete a task, rather than attempting to do it alone.

The evening saw the delegates taking part in the Drop In Café where they visited an assortment of displays to gather information about Educational Services and receive a stamp on their card. These cards were then put into a draw. The delegates seemed to enjoy talking to the various provincial Educational Services Committee members and learning about the different areas with which ESOs are involved including scholarships and awards, PD and workshops, planning a PD event, resources and funding, music programs and even a “test your knowledge” station.

The keynote speaker Friday morning was Dr. Stan Kutcher who addressed the delegates on “Understanding and Addressing Key Components of Mental Health in Schools.” He provided everyone with access to a website that provides free educational materials: [www.teenmentalhealth.org](http://www.teenmentalhealth.org)

He talked about the essential role schools play in socializing adolescents and discussed mental health and mental health literacy. He offered an interesting perspective on mental illness and teenagers. He recognized that it is our choice of words that sometimes is the problem, not the adolescents themselves. If we ask the adolescents if they have ever been depressed, they will tend to say “Yes”, but for most of them, they have been sad, sorrowful, or upset. And then, instead of letting them figure out how to get over their feelings, people turn to pharmaceuticals. Kutcher's point was that mental health includes both the good and the bad; no one is always happy, and that doesn't mean that everyone has a mental illness. Instead of defining every negative emotion as some type of mental illness—yes, there are people with mental illnesses—we should accept that most of us just get nervous, anxious, sad, angry, afraid, worried, etc. and it is perfectly normal.

After the keynote, delegates went to one of three workshops: Managing Conflict, Destreaming, or Cultural Proficiencies. Afterwards, the delegates returned to the main meeting room for the recognition of Educational Services Officers who have earned various awards for the time they spend working for their districts/bargaining units as ESOs. Then it was time to prepare for the ResearchEd Conference or find their way home before the storm arrived!





## researchED

ONTARIO 2018

OSSTF/FEESO sponsored Canada's second-ever researchED conference, researchED Ontario, on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 in Toronto. The conference attracted more than 285 attendees, and about two-thirds of those were OSSTF/FEESO members.

ResearchED is a grassroots movement from the UK that encourages teachers and education workers to insist that education practices and initiatives must be evidence-based and empirically proven to be effective before they are adopted by schools or school boards. To that end, researchED brings together researchers and teachers and education workers to share data, studies and informed practices.

Tom Bennett, co-founder of researchED, opened the conference on Friday evening with a keynote speech about evidence-based approaches to student behaviour. A second keynote was delivered on Saturday morning by Professor Daniel Willingham of the University of Virginia, who spoke about what educators need to know about educational psychology.

The bulk of the conference—comprising 40 workshops presented by researchers and educators from Canada,

the US and Europe—was originally scheduled to take place at Mississauga Secondary School on Saturday, April 14, but an impending ice-storm compelled the Peel District School Board to cancel all events because of weather and liability concerns. Conference organizers were forced to scramble and work with staff at the host hotel, the Westin Toronto Airport, who were able to arrange for rooms to accommodate all of the Saturday workshops.

OSSTF/FEESO President Harvey Bischof was among the workshop presenters, hosting a session called “What’s the Union Doing Here.” In his presentation, Bischof explained how the stated goals of researchED align closely with the interests of OSSTF/FEESO members, many of whom have expressed, both individually and through member surveys, that ministry-mandated and school board-led initiatives, most of which are of dubious value, frequently result in increased workload and ineffectual use of members’ time.

The conference closed with a panel discussion on The Future of Evidence-Informed Education, and a number of those in attendance remained well into Saturday evening for an informal reception with the speakers and workshop presenters.

