



### COVID-19 UPDATE AND POLITICAL ACTION

District 10 members continue to provide quality public education programming to students throughout the “pivot” to remote learning that began January 4, 2021 in response to concerning increases in COVID-19 in our communities. District 10 members are recognized for their professionalism and flexibility during this period of remote learning, while acknowledging that this work is not without its challenges. The provincial government’s ongoing ill-timed announcements, whether it be school closure announcements during the winter break or the expansion of emergency childcare for some two days before it takes effect, demonstrates poor planning and a lack of consideration of frontline educators and the families we serve.

Many members are looking for ways to take appropriate action regarding their concerns about the changing government policies impacting education and other community services, and in many cases this involves political action. Our District 10 Strategic Action Plan, presented by our local District Vice Presidents and as endorsed by Delegates of AMDA, focuses on political action and engagement at the local level. Members are encouraged to reach out to District 10 VPs, Geoff Brenders and April Brander through the Branch President, or the District CPAC (Communication and Political Action Committee) Officer, Deb Reitberger, through their Branch CPAC representative, to discuss ways to effectively engage and mobilize members throughout the District. The District is appreciative of every member’s efforts in engaging with Federation work, as we collectively “*promote and advance the cause of public education*” even during a global pandemic and despite inadequate proactive planning on the part of the current government.

### LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

With the conclusion of local ratification, a new Collective Agreement is now in effect until August 31, 2022. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Board regarding the completion of retroactive payments for all applicable members. A final draft of the Collective Agreement is also still pending. If members have any questions or require any assistance, please reach out to the District Office for support.

### CERTIFICATION RATING STATEMENTS—OSSTF TO QECO

All permanent District 10 OSSTF members who are not currently placed in OSSTF’s Category 4 or QECO’s Category A4 were contacted via email in late 2020 with additional information regarding certification review, especially in light of the recent transfer of certification ratings to QECO. CONED members teaching adult day school programs and occasional members who are in LTOs paid on grid should also ensure that their statements on file are accurate.

### CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS

As the spring staffing process quickly approaches, any teachers requesting a change to their full-time equivalency status (full- or part-time) or who are interested in a transfer to another work location should notify the Board by applying through the appropriate online job posting when released. Members considering changing their FTE are strongly advised to contact the District office before doing so, especially in light of changing hiring practices with the revocation of Regulation 274. Any teacher requesting a transfer to a new school location is also encouraged to apply to postings to which they are qualified as they occur.

Additionally, members planning to retire at any time during the current school year should notify both the employer and the District 10 office as soon as possible. Advanced notice allows members sufficient planning time for decisions regarding pension, gratuity and post-teaching benefit plans, as well as the option to terminate LTD coverage and associated premium costs in some circumstances. A retirement information package can be accessed through the District 10 website, under the Publications tab. Notifying the Board of retirement plans prior to March 31, 2021 could have staffing implications in terms of surplus and redundancy declaration for our members with least seniority.