



January 13, 2021

# DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ESO Report - Summarized from the Education Notes for December 2020

**At AMPA 2020** a motion was passed to enable the development of a curriculum resource focused on the history and accomplishments of Black Canadians. An invitation arrived in September looking for members to form a writing team. One has been assembled consisting of four members who are highly qualified to take on this initiative. Once complete, the final product will be applicable across the curriculum. It can be anticipated that the resource will be digital and a living document that can continue to be updated. The writing team is reaching out to groups within OSSTF/FEESO for input to guide their next steps. What they are asking for is suggestions in terms of what this sort of resource could look like and what it could include. The Educational Services Committee was contacted and provided feedback.

**The Educational Issues and Pedagogy Subcommittee of ESC** continued its work on various projects. EIP members generated advice about an overall plan to help members understand privacy and equity issues when encountering corporate intrusion and increased direct marketing. After critically examining research about culturally responsive pedagogy, a few EIP members produced some content to share with union members. Remaining members of EIP wrote some language-focused guidance about strategies for members to use when first approaching an unfamiliar student, parent, or worker name. As this work is headed to the graphics department, the EIP team will take on new projects and hopes to see the results of its ongoing efforts later this year.

### EDUCATION AWARDS

#### **André Léculyer Award**

This award was created in honour of André Léculyer who was an Associate General Secretary of OSSTF/FEESO. It recognizes the extraordinary leadership and service of the dedicated members who have contributed to improving professional growth programs at various levels and promoting issues of educational concern to our members.

#### **Kelly Ann McKenzie Award**

This award was established to honour the memory and contributions of Kelly Ann McKenzie, a PSSP member, who served as an outstanding member of the Educational Services Committee until her tragic death in 1995. It is given to a current support staff (PSSP/ESS) member of OSSTF/FEESO who has made substantive contributions to the professional growth and development of fellow members at the regional and provincial level.

#### **Nancy Warrener Award**

This award commemorates the life of Nancy Warrener a vibrant teacher who is remembered for the upbeat sensitivity and creativity she brought to her multifaceted OSSTF/FEESO professional development activities at both the district and provincial levels. It is given annually to a current teacher or occasional teacher (T/OT) member who reflects Nancy's "This is Good" attitude and professional dedication through substantive contributions to the professional growth and development of fellow members at the regional and provincial level.

In addition to nominating deserving members in your own District/Bargaining Unit, consider suggesting the nomination of extraordinary members in other districts and Bargaining Units. Contact the leaders in those locals to highlight worthy candidates.

### **2019–2020 Awards Presented**

The Andre Lecuyer and Kelly Ann McKenzie Awards were not presented in 2019–2020.

### **2020 Nancy Warrener Award Winner**

The Educational Services Committee was pleased to present the 2020 Nancy Warrener Award to James Matheson (D14 Kawartha Pine Ridge, Teacher Bargaining Unit). James was a secondary school teacher with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board for over 25 years, where he primarily taught visual arts. Nominated by the D14 Executive, James is described by his President in the following way: “James uses his gentle humour, immense artistic talent and wealth of knowledge to inspire others. At his very core, James is an idea person. Not only is he adept at identifying obstacles he is brilliant at presenting solutions and finding a pathway forward. James has provided countless illustrations and cartoons for years in our local newsletter and has a large fan base. He represents every part of the mission of Education Services through his pursuit of knowledge, understanding shifting political climates, a healthy dose of cynicism followed by actions of hope that inspire others to join in developing their own skills and leadership. James has been an active participant in delivering provincial office Educational Services workshops for a number of years. When he speaks, he captivates the room. I have been fortunate to work alongside James as a Presenter for OSSTF/FEESO and have witnessed his gift for educating others first hand. His approach is disarming when guiding discussions on very difficult subject areas such as Mental Health, Pain to Pride, and Cultivating Resilience.”

Along with his work with the union at the provincial level, James was also an active member of the local executive. James was one of the main reasons the district was able to have new volunteers interested in union events each year. A few years ago, James organized a group of cyclists from D14 to participate in the Ride for Heart. He was also a driving force to organizing a Member Art Show Open House. At this event, members displayed their artwork in our district office on an evening when our trustees were invited to attend, which encouraged rich dialogues to happen. Often the first to volunteer for committees, James has given a great deal of time and energy to the union. His contributions help advance the good work and understanding of our members, particularly in challenging political times. In June 2020, James retired from being a secondary school teacher with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. It is to no one’s surprise that James now spends his days teaching part time with the Faculty of Education at Trent University, as he continues to share his love for teaching and learning with teacher candidates.