

## Provincial Executive Liaison Report

To: D10 – District Council

From: Malini Leahy, Executive Officer

### 1. PISA 2018 Results Released

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) released the 2018 results on December 3, 2019. The assessment is administered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 79 member and non-member nations and is intended to evaluate educational systems. The standardized test is given to randomly selected 15-year old school students and assesses their performance on mathematics, science, and reading.

In the international rankings, Ontario and Canada continue to perform above the OECD average in Mathematics, Science, and Reading. There has been a gradual slow decline in the results for each of the areas from 2006 to 2018 internationally, nationally, and provincially except for a slight improvement in Ontario's mathematics results from 2015 to 2018.

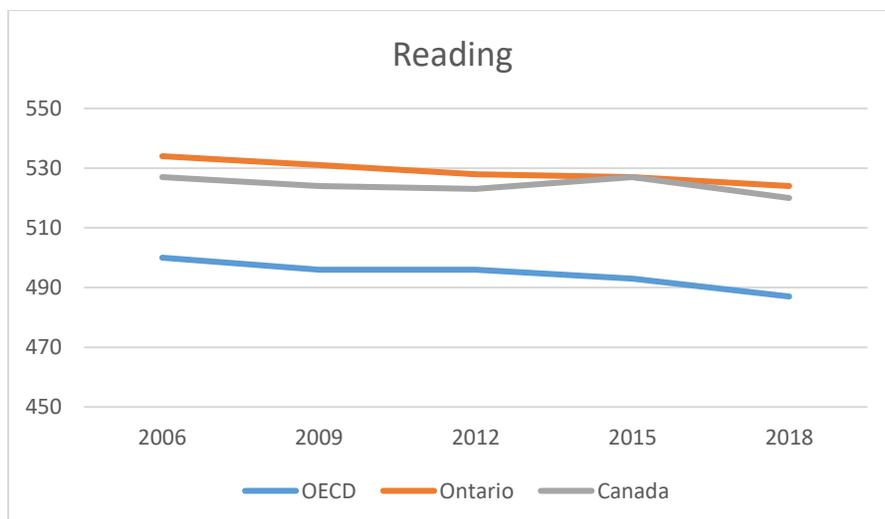
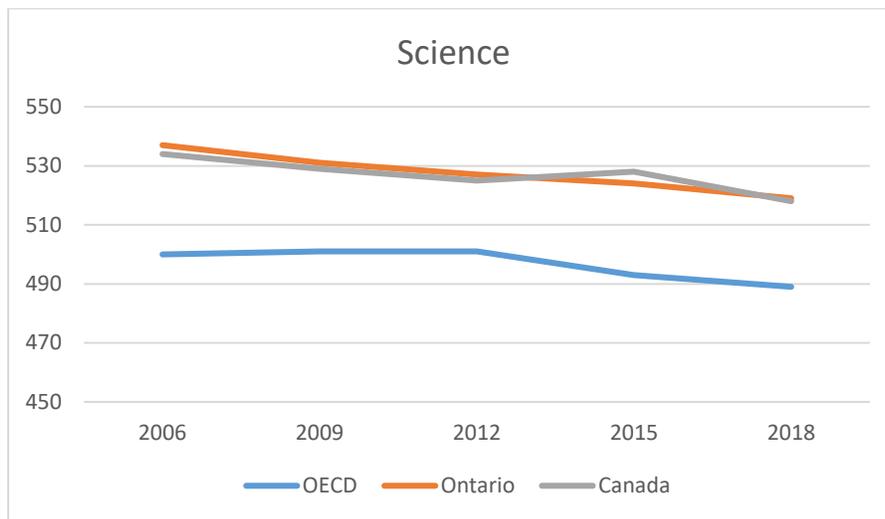
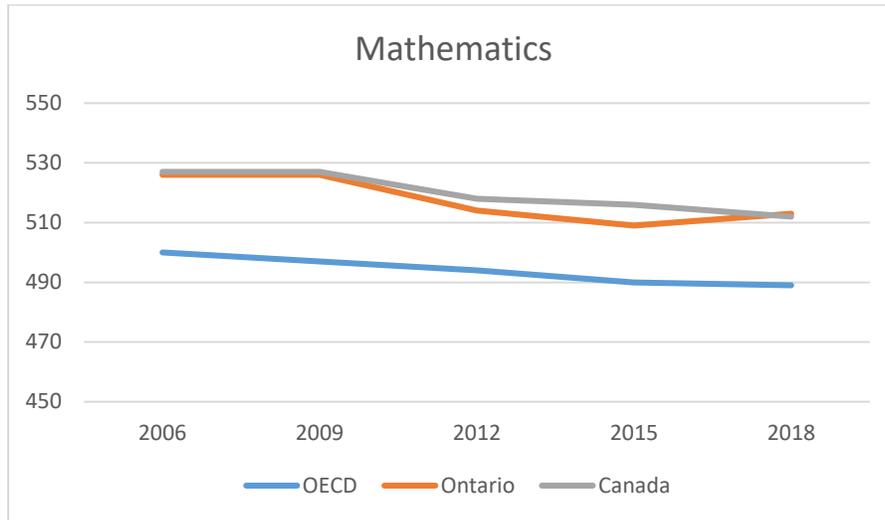
OECD requires each country to draw a sample of at least 5,000 students. In small countries like Iceland and Luxembourg, where there are fewer than 5,000 students per year, all 15-year old students are tested. Some countries, e.g. Canada, use much larger samples than required to allow comparisons between provinces.

The PISA 2018 survey focused on reading, with mathematics, science and global competence as minor areas of assessment. PISA 2018 also included an optional assessment of financial literacy. Tests recently have had a primary focus though reading, mathematics and science questions have been included in PISA tests since 2006. The focus of PISA 2015 was science and PISA 2012 focused mathematics.

The table below shows the test scores over the years:

PISA	Mathematics			Science			Reading		
	OECD	Ontario	Canada	OECD	Ontario	Canada	OECD	Ontario	Canada
2018	489	513	512	489	519	518	487	524	520
2015	490	509	516	493	524	528	493	527	527
2012	494	514	518	501	527	525	496	528	523
2009	497	526	527	501	531	529	496	531	524
2006	500	526	527	500	537	534	500	534	527
2003	500	530	532	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	530	528
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	533	534

The following figures show the trend over time:



## 2. Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Advisory Panel Report

The Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Advisory Panel (released their report on October 30, 2019). The Panel's mandate was to "provide advice on the design of a new Ontario Autism Program that is:

- Needs-based and addresses individualized needs of children and youth
- Sustainable within an annual budget of \$600M
- Able to serve as many children, youth and families as possible
- Aligned and coordinated with schools and the health system to facilitate a child and youth-centred approach while staying within the fiscal limits set by the government i.e. the \$600 million funding envelope.

The Panel relied on information collected through the government's month long consultations (held May 1-31, 2019), the expertise of the panel members and "relevant evidence, science and data". During the consultations, OSSTF/FEESO provided a written submission, staff participated in two telephone town halls, and a DBU was sent to local leaders asking them to encourage their members to provide input.

The Panel examined all areas of the OAP and made sweeping recommendations including a recommendation to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. OSSTF/FEESO would support many of the recommendations especially those focused on needs-based funding, access to early intervention, respite care and access to mental health services.

Some of the recommendations including many directed to the Ministry of Education could have an impact on our members, including:

- Addition of speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, and mental health services to core OAP services;
- review of PPM 140, *Incorporating Methods of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) into Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)*;
- review of PPM 149, *Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals*;
- review of PPM 81, *Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings*;
- training for teachers and educational workers.

Staff will continue to monitor this file and provide further information around the impacts of this report as they become clearer.

## 3. Ontario Autism Program Implementation

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario government announced adoption of the "key recommendations" of the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Advisory Panel. The key elements of the new program include:

- Increasing core services to include speech language pathology, occupational therapy and mental health services. This will take until 2021 to be fully implemented.
- Foundational family services, which will be available starting in April 2020 and will include programs like family and peer mentoring, caregiver workshops and coaching sessions intended to give more tools to caregivers.
- Early intervention and school readiness services that will help young children access critical services when they will benefit most, and to prepare them to enter school.

- Urgent and complex needs services that will provide time-limited, urgent response services for children and youth and their families who are experiencing significant and immediate needs.
- Creation of an implementation working group comprised of 13 members (no one from the Ontario Autism Coalition, or from Education). Their first meeting is scheduled for early in the new year.
- 15 in-person training sessions focused on co-occurring mental health challenges often faced by children on the autism spectrum.

There is no mention of the recommendations made to the Ministry of Education.

Implementation of the new program will be phased in over the next two years. The autism community is angry that the needs based funding will not begin until 2021. The Ontario Autism Coalition is planning a rally on February 18, 2020 to protest the delays. Staff has reached out to the Ontario Autism Coalition to discuss the rally.

Educators are listed as part of the group being targeted for the training. The list also includes community agencies, medical practitioners, and caregivers. The training is scheduled for “early in the new year”. Depending on the timing of the training participation by members may be impacted by our current work-to-rule sanctions. Boycotting these events should be reconsidered, as additional training was one of the recommendations OSSTF/FEESO made during the consultation process. Leaders should be encouraged to request information from boards about selection of participants when training dates are announced.

#### **4. Project Overseas 2020 – Canadian Teachers’ Federation**

*Project Overseas* is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF/FCE) and its member organizations to support partners in developing countries as they co-plan and co-deliver professional learning to local educators.

This project is part of the CTF/FCE’s International and Social Justice Program, which focuses on teachers taking action for:

- Teaching – Canadian teachers work with local teachers overseas to strengthen teacher competence;
- Teacher Organizations – The program assists overseas partner organizations as they strengthen their capacities to provide professional services to their members; and
- Gender Equality – All Project Overseas address gender equality for teachers, assist in the development of girl-friendly school environments and work to eliminate school-related gender-based violence.

OSSTF/FEESO will sponsor up to TWO (2) members to participate in *Project Overseas 2020*. Participants must be available for assignments during the month of July and meet a list of criteria set out by CTF/FCE.

To view the following Project Overseas documents, please refer to D/BU #054/2019-2020:

- Brochure;
- Information for Applicants;
- Frequently Asked Questions; and

- Application Form.

Members can find this information on the CTF/FCE Project Overseas website.

Members of OSSTF/FEESO interested in participating in Project Overseas must return their completed application form to Gary Fenn at Provincial Office by no later than Thursday, January 16.

For more information, please contact Gary Fenn at [gary.fenn@osstf.ca](mailto:gary.fenn@osstf.ca) or by phone at 416.751.8300/1.800.267.7867

## 5. **Egale Survey**

Speak OUT is a 5-year, three phase project addressing youth dating violence within the LGBTQI2S community. This project aims to find answers about youth experiences of dating violence within the LGBTQI2S community, and to inform a youth-directed intervention program pilot.

Within this project, Egale is conducting a national survey about the personal experiences LGBTQI2S youth, ages 14 to 24, with dating violence, healthy relationships, and support services. The survey is being conducted in partnership with the University of Manitoba and will result in a comprehensive report. The results of this survey will help inform policy decisions, programming options to combat gender based violence, and will provide insight to our understanding of the unique contexts in which LGBTQI2S youth experience dating violence.

The survey is live now and, as part of our ongoing equity strategy, it would be advantageous for OSSTF/FEESO to support this initiative. OSSTF/FEESO would distribute a link to the survey out through our social media channels, in an article for *Update* online and it would be beneficial information to pass along to school councils in the next school council newsletter, which would go out in early February. The survey closes in March 2020.

For more information: <https://egale.ca/egale-in-action/speak-out-national-survey/>

## 6. **School Council Outreach Report**

As part of our ongoing strategy to reach out to parents and parent groups, we are turning our focus on outreach to school councils. After contacting every District, we have found that most Districts/Bargaining Units are not liaising with their school council representatives and, in many cases, do not know who their school council representatives are.

We have begun the process of creating a *School Council Newsletter* as part of this outreach to parents. We are planning to send the newsletter out approximately four times per year with the ability to send it out more frequently if the need arises.

Our inaugural newsletter is complete, printed, and ready for distribution. It will be sent in English and French to all schools where we have active members and a school council. The newsletter is addressed to school council chairpersons and our hope is that it will be shared and discussed at school council meetings. The first newsletter covers a brief welcome from us, an explanation – taken directly from our information picket leaflets – of why we are fighting for public education at this time, and ask for parents to contact their local MPP, as well as to check out our various campaign websites.

Subsequent newsletters will focus on mirroring our provincial messaging and current issues, such as bargaining.

In addition, we will be working on a School Council Outreach Toolkit to help Districts and Bargaining Units get ready for a new school year by advising them on such things as:

- Ensuring constitutional language is in place for school council representatives and a mechanism to support liaising and building a relationship with their school councils;
- Educating their members on the importance of school council outreach;
- Effective strategies for engaging school council representatives.

In addition to sending the newsletter to school council chairpersons, we will be advising Districts that we will be undertaking this new level of outreach and will send them a copy of the newsletters as we create and distribute them.

## 7. **Pink Shirts to Fight Bullying**

The actions of a group of students in Nova Scotia following an incident of bullying has created a global movement. When a Grade 9 student faced homophobic taunts and threats of violence for wearing a pink shirt to school, David Shepherd and Travis Price acted by buying and wearing pink shirts as a sign of support. Other students at the school joined in and amplified their actions, sending a message that homophobia and bullying will not be tolerated.

OSSTF/FEESO members take seriously their responsibilities to address all forms of bullying and harassment in our schools and workplaces. Pink Shirt Day on February 26, 2020, and Day of Pink on April 8, 2020 provide opportunities to take positive action to end bullying, homophobia and transphobia, while celebrating diversity.

OSSTF/FEESO Think, Speak, Act – Stop Bullying Pink T-shirts can again be purchased online through the OSSTF/FEESO Boutique. Districts can now order the T-shirts and have the entire order shipped to their District office. T-shirts are available in both English and French at a cost of \$8.50 each plus HST and shipping. The link to order T-shirts will be open from **November 25, 2019 to January 10, 2020 ONLY**. Orders will be shipped directly to the District office during the week of February 10, 2020.

To place your order, go to: <https://osstfca.stg.bnr.corpmerchandise.com>.

The T-shirts are an eligible expense under District Funding Account 2085 – Advancing Human Rights. Please access the Financial Handbook for more information.

Support the anti-bullying initiatives in 2020 by planning activities and learning opportunities. OSSTF/FEESO has produced helpful resources for members including:

- Shout Out against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia, and Heterosexism ([www.osstf.on.ca/shoutout](http://www.osstf.on.ca/shoutout))
- Still Not Laughing, a resource that challenges sexual and gender-based harassment in schools ([www.osstf.on.ca/SNL](http://www.osstf.on.ca/SNL)).
- Additional resources can be accessed at [www.osstf.on.ca/resourcecentre](http://www.osstf.on.ca/resourcecentre), Pink Shirt Day website [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca) and on the Day of Pink website at [www.dayofpink.org](http://www.dayofpink.org).

## 8. **Changes to the OTIP Long Term Disability [LTD] Plan**

OTIP has officially announced that effective January 1, 2020, OTIP will assume all responsibility associated with management of the long-term disability (LTD) plan. Over the years, OTIP has increasingly assumed more of the risk and is now in position to take the next step by assuming all financial risk. At the same time, OTIP will continue to provide the same high quality service OSSTF/FEESO members have become accustomed to. By assuming all the responsibility, OTIP is ensuring that every dollar generated by the plan stays within the plan. This will provide optimal plan stability for OSSTF/FEESO members today and in the future.

### **What this means to OSSTF/FEESO members**

There will be no changes in plan design or rates as a result of this change. Also, **no increase** will be required at the 2020 renewal.

For members with a date of disability prior to January 1, 2020, nothing will change as they will continue to be part of the existing LTD plan with Manulife Financial.

For members with a date of disability on or after January 1, 2020, administration of the plan, as well as management of the member experience, will also remain unchanged. OTIP will continue to adjudicate claims, issue claim payments and work with OSSTF/FEESO members to facilitate returns to work.

### **Ensuring plan sustainability**

Ensuring long term plan sustainability is a high priority to OTIP as we move into this new arrangement. The new model means all of the margins required by a traditional insurer will remain within the plan to the benefit of members. At the same time, the Trustees, through effective investment and pricing policies, will ensure that a strong financial base is established and maintained to meet all of the plan's financial obligations. The same capital requirements and reserve adequacy required by a traditional insurer will be established and maintained by OTIP. In the coming days, OTIP will begin to provide notice to current plan sponsors. With this in mind, we want to ensure that you are informed of the change.

## 9. **OMERS Governance Bylaw Changes**

On November 14, the Sponsors Corporation (SC) Board voted on changes to bylaws that will impact the OMERS Governance model. Prior to the vote, OSSTF/FEESO communicated concerns with some of the initial proposed bylaw changes to Sandra Sahli, OSSTF/FEESO SC Board representative. The SC Board addressed OSSTF/FEESO's concerns regarding the initial proposed bylaw changes. OSSTF/FEESO is supportive of looking at ways to strengthen the OMERS Governance model. OSSTF/FEESO will further evaluate the changes made as soon as the text of the bylaws becomes available.

OSSTF/FEESO has full confidence in Sandra Sahli, who has served the best interest of OMERS members since her appointment in July 2014. We also intend to continue to work closely with union side Sponsors of the SC Board.

Any questions you may have can be directed to Chris Goodsir at [chris.goodsir@osstf.ca](mailto:chris.goodsir@osstf.ca).

## 10. **Recent D/BU Memoranda**

057 - OMERS Strike Pension Payments

056 - CLC Triennial Convention Resolutions

055 - Vacancy on the Local Staff and Elected Officials/ Working Conditions Work Group

054 - CTF Project Overseas 2020

- 053 - Appointment of Executive Assistant
- 052 - Parent Attendance at Picket Lines
- 051 - OMERS – Strike Pension Payments
- 050 - Federal Court Order Alberta v. Access Copyright
- 049 - Submission of Resolutions for AMPA 2020
- 048 - OSSTF/FEESO Website and myOSSTF portal Video Tutorials
- 047 - Accessing Ed Services Workshops in Response to Employer Discipline
- 046 - Changes to the OTIP Long Term Disability (LTD) Plan
- 045 - OSSTF/FEESO Pink Shirts to Fight Bullying
- 044 - OMERS Governance Bylaw Changes
- 042 - OMERS Governance
- 041 - Political Action Plan