

JUNE 3, 2015



DISTRICT COUNCIL

FEDERATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Gratuity Update: Request Option to Defer Payment from the Board

The Board has recently agreed to allow retiring members the ability to request the option to defer receiving their gratuity until the month of January following retirement.

Collective Bargaining / Negotiations

Barb and I have been visiting the Branches to answer questions and discuss concerns that many of our members have about the recent round of negotiations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at the District Office or speak with your Branch representatives.

At our local table, negotiations are continuing.

At the central (provincial) table, negotiations are at an impasse and the Federation applied for conciliation, as outlined in CB Bulletin #37, on May 23, 2015. Conciliation is a process through which the Ontario Labour Relations Board will appoint a conciliator in an attempt to further the negotiating process. If insufficient progress is made at a meeting between the parties and a conciliator, the conciliator can request a "no board" report, which would pave the way for OSSTF to undertake province-wide job action, or for OPSBA to initiate a lockout. Sanctions may be taken 17 days after the "no board" report is issued and 5 days' notice must be given before any sanctions or altering of working conditions can take place. See CB Bulletin #20 for an outline (flowchart) of the Bargaining Process under the OLRA and SBCBA. The contract strips that OPSBA is proposing are contained in CB Bulletin #22.

On May 26, 2015, the OLRB rendered its decision with respect to the job actions taken in Durham, Rainbow, and Peel Districts and on May 28, 2015, the provincial government passed legislation ordering our colleagues in each of these three Districts back to work with the provision that no job action be taken prior to the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Colleagues in Halton and Ottawa-Carleton Districts began local job action in the form of work-to-rules earlier in May which continue.

Our elementary colleagues in ETFO have begun a province-wide work-to-rule job action in support of their central (provincial) negotiators. Colleagues in OECTA have voted overwhelmingly to take job action which their leaders say will likely begin in September.

Recently, CB Bulletins have been issued almost daily as new developments arise. CB Bulletins are listed on-line and can be accessed through the provincial website (www.osstf.ca) using your Federation Number and Password. If you are unable to do this, please contact provincial office and arrange to set up your ability to access CB Bulletins through the provincial website.

It is highly anticipated that CB Bulletins will be issued during the summer holidays, when our office staff are on reduced hours. We will do all we can to use our local email distribution system as soon as we can after receiving new bulletins but delays may occur. Please ensure that your Branch President has your correct non-board email address in order to receive bargaining updates.

Hugh Garrett, Federation Officer