



JUNE 4, 2014

# DISTRICT COUNCIL

## FEDERATION OFFICER'S REPORT

### 1. Grievances

We currently have two individual grievances outstanding, one at Step Two and one at Step Three that is proceeding to arbitration.

### 2. VLAP

Some members have inquired about VLAP for next year. It is the position of OSSTF that the provisions for VLAP continue unless otherwise agreed. Members should apply for VLAP by using the "Request for Leave of Absence" form through their Principal. If their request for VLAP is denied by the Board, please inform the District Office. As a precaution, do not make or commit to any expenditures until any associated request for leave (e.g. VLAP) is approved by the Board in writing.

### 3. Collective Bargaining / Negotiations

Bill 122 has been passed and thus a new era of collective bargaining begins for our members. The bill creates a formalized two-tiered negotiations structure. There will be a Central Table as well as a Local Table where bargaining will occur. Issues to be discussed at the Central Table will be identified and determined either by agreement or by the OLRB. All remaining issues will then be deemed eligible for discussion at each Local Table. Within 15 days of central issues being identified, formal negotiations are to commence, both centrally and locally. Any issue being dealt with at the Central Table is ineligible for discussion at a Local Table. Locally, our CBC will meet once the Central Table issues have been identified to discuss local issues and select the local Negotiating Table Team. Please be aware that this may happen during the summer vacation months.

In addition to the new process of negotiations under Bill 122, the OSSTF has scheduled a Special Meeting of the Provincial Assembly for May 31, 2014 to discuss negotiating strategy. Representatives of District 10 will attend and details of this meeting will be forthcoming.

Also, there is a provincial election occurring on June 12, 2014 which may have an impact on the nature of negotiations. I urge all of our members to take an active stance in defending public investment in our schools by supporting their local candidate that they believe would best protect and enhance public education.

As always, stay tuned. Bargaining Bulletins will be forwarded to our members via our email distribution list to ensure that we are all kept up-to-date and informed of negotiations.

*Hugh Garrett, Federation Officer*