

Report from the May Meeting of Provincial Council – May 31, 2013

1. Ministry of Education Briefing on Future Bargaining Structure

The Minister of Education called a meeting of Education Stakeholders on May 23, 2013 to discuss the Future of Bargaining. Paul Elliott and Dale Leckie attended on behalf of OSSTF/FEESO. Attending from the Government/Ministry were Liz Sandals, Howie Bender, George Zegarac, Tim Hadwin, Jim Breckenridge, Reg Pearson, and Andrew Pariser.

Minister Sandals stated that the Government knows it should/can do better, and that we need a sustainable process with all legal responsibilities engrained, since the current system is broken. Some questions will be:

- Who is on the management team?
- Are all items negotiated centrally?
- If there are two tiers, what is bargained at each tier?
- Does provincial bargaining apply to all workers or just teachers?
- What is the ratification process?
- What are the sanction rights? (The Minister is in favour of right to strike)

Reg Pearson also spoke, and states that it will take time for the Ministry to build a draft model. Informal talks will continue over the summer.

The Provincial Executive has yet to receive any further documentation or information from the consulting team, directed senior staff to provide recommended strategic options and will also be reconvening the Collective Bargaining Process Work Group between June 4 and June 11.

2. Regulation 274 Ministry Meetings

On May 27 and May 28 2013, representatives from OSSTF/FEESO met with government representatives and School Board representatives to discuss Reg 274 as outlined in the MOU between the Ministry of Education and OSSTF/FEESO.

OSSTF/FEESO representatives did not entertain any suggestions that would dilute any rights currently guaranteed under Reg 274. The Board representatives were also resistant in addressing our issues and consequently discussions over the two days were not successful in addressing the Boards' issues or OSSTF/FEESO's issues with Reg 274. Despite the Ministry's efforts to move discussions along it became clear that the representatives from the Boards were unable to make decisions without further consultation with other members of OPSBA. Both parties agreed to another meeting day on June 17, 2013.

3. Workload and Voluntary Contributions Study

Assigned staff has communicated with former OSSTF/FEESO staff member, Rosemary Clark, about the research project on voluntary activities. She will be serving on a project steering committee, which will assist with the project design and the main questionnaire, with a goal of reviewing the project report in the late winter. We have reached out to hire an OISE graduate student to do the data analysis and perhaps to head up the project and give it external credibility. An online survey will be developed to gather initial data and prepare summaries, graphs, charts, etc. We have begun receiving applications from interesting individuals and have tentatively scheduled a meeting for Monday, June 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

4. OMERS Sponsors Corporation Report

OMERS has received over 5000 question and inquiries regarding the 2013 specified plan change proposals. OMERS has developed a process to address these questions. Please consider the following points relating to the 2013 Specified Plan Change Cycle:

- All of the proposed plan changes or variations of them have been put before the board in the past. They have failed to achieve the required 2/3 vote for approval.
- OMERS has one of the most transparent plan change processes in the broader pension industry. A copy of the 2013 proposed plan changes was included as an attachment to the OMERS SC report for April PC. They are also available on the OMERS SC website.
- OMERS currently has an accrual deficit of about 10 billion dollars. The deficit is less than what was originally projected in 2008 when the world's financial markets collapsed. All the losses from 2008 have now been realized and as a result of strong returns in 2012, the OMERS yearend plan valuation shows investment gains that will be smoothed in coming years.
- In 2010, the OMERS SC put in place a 3-year plan to address the funding shortfall. As a result of this plan and the strong returns in 2012, the OMERS SC has the option to file a balanced plan valuation this year with no changes required to benefits or contributions. A majority vote at the OMERS SC can approve the filing and will extend the next required filing to 2016.

Public sector pension plan are under considerable scrutiny and this kind of alarm sounding does nothing to help protect the benefits we all worked hard to achieve. Although it is always important to keep a very close eye on the health of our pension plan and the related decisions before the OMERS SC board, much of the current noise is in fact politically motivated and should be considered in that context.

OMERS Governance Review 2012

Since early February both the OAC and the SC Boards have been working together to address the recommendations contained in Tony Dean's report released in January 2013. Both Boards have committed to keep OMERS members informed on their progress through member newsletters and progress updates posted on both OMERS websites - www.OMERS.com and www.OMERSSC.com.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

AVCs are investments made in addition to a member's defined benefit OMERS pension. Contributions to AVC accounts can be made automatically through pre-authorized debit or by transferring funds from RRSPs. Only OMERS members may contribute to AVCs. Funds in AVC accounts earn the net OMERS Fund rate of return after investment management expenses and for 2012, AVC accounts earned 9.5% and were charged an annual administration fee of \$23.

UPDATE ON RECENT INVESTMENTS:

- OMERS Private Equity – Purchase of Civica (UK)
- OMERS Private Equity – New Jersey Lottery
- OMERS Ventures – 360incentives.com
- Oxford Properties – Expansion of Square One Shopping Centre
- Oxford Properties – Purchase of London Stock Exchange Headquarters

5. International Study Visas

In April, PC adopted the following motion proposed by D 34:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OSSTF/FEESO take an active role in investigating the impact that proposed new rules governing international study visas will have on the vibrant ESL sector in Ontario, by assisting in an information campaign and potential lobbying efforts, including the provision of staff time and expertise as necessary.

Since then, Domenic Bellissimo has been assigned to further investigate the Federations actions necessary to protect the livelihood of our members in the affected D 34 schools. To date we have done the following:

- An article outlining the issue will be featured in the June issue of Update and posted on our website under member news;
- D 34 will have the issue addressed at their AGM in June so as to alert all members of the potential impact of the changes to the international visa program;
- Further research and contact has been made with a number of opposition MP and MPP offices resulting in our obtaining a discussion document put out earlier this year by the ministry of Trainings, Colleges and Universities. The MTCU is taking the lead in designing criteria for an institution to receive the proper designation, which enables them to enrol international students; this report is currently being reviewed and will be

- discussed at the next D 34 council meeting to determine our Federation's concerns with any of the 15 proposed criteria.
- Working in consultation with Languages Canada and our employers at the two schools (ILSC and Global Village), we will support a fair process for their "Application for Designation."
 - We will continue to work with our Legislative Observer in providing the opportunity for PE and D 34 presidents to speak with representatives of the MTCU leading the designation process.

6. Leadership 2013

The OSSTF/FEESO Leadership 2013 Conference will be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto. On-line registration and complete information is now available on the OSSTF/FEESO website. For more information, please contact Anne Marie Sutton, leadershipconference@osstf.on.ca, 416-751-8300 or 1-800-267-7867. New Presidents' Training will occur Wednesday, August 14, 2013.