

Report from the September Meeting of Provincial Council - September 19, 2014

1. **Meetings with the Government**

OSSTF/FEESO has met with the Minister of Education and other members of the new government. Issues raised:

- ECE class sizes and the need for hard caps - the government is collecting data around individual class sizes from each board;
- Reg. 274 - we have requested a copy of the report of the study which was done;
- Upcoming member meetings/strike votes.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer reported that preliminary reports suggest that expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year are below the total budgeted allocation, however, this is the second year in a row that there has been a decrease in income generated by membership dues. A historical perspective on this was provided in the treasurer's written report.

The 2014-2015 Financial Handbook is available on the OSSTF/FEESO website. Changes to the Expenditure Guidelines include increases in the mileage rate and the hourly rate for childcare.

3. **Use of personal vehicles for employer business**

A report was provided about the insurance risks associated with using personal vehicles for employer business. OSSTF/FEESO continues to advise members not to use their personal vehicles to transport students.

4. **Donations**

OSSTF/FEESO has made donations to the Red Cross re: Ebola in West Africa, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and the following organizations/coalitions:

Canadian Women's Foundation
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW)
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Egale (Canada's national lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) human rights organization)
Equal Pay Coalition
Learning Disabilities Organization of Ontario
Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses
Ontario Campaign 2000
Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare
Ontario Federation of Home and Schools
Ontario Health Coalition
People for Education
Workers Art and Heritage Centre
Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

5. Designated Charity – Kids’ Help Phone

Kids Help Phone provides outreach (online and print information, online and direct phone support) to children, teens, and young adults. Kids Help Phone is also one of four organizations to provide Good2Talk, a helpline that provides professional counselling, information and referrals to post-secondary students.

6. New OSSTF/FEESO Mental Health Workshop – available October 2014

OSSTF/FEESO Mental Health workshop is nearing completion. Districts and bargaining units that are interested in piloting the 2-3 hour session are asked to contact Suzette Clark.

7. Educational Services Committee Conference 2014 – November 6 & 7, 2014

The 2014 *Fueling Our Fire / Alimenter notre feu* conference and registration information is available on the OSSTF/FEESO website. Registration for any OSSTF/FEESO member is \$150. Transportation costs for members will be paid for by provincial office. Time release and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the delegate. The registration deadline is October 20, 2014. Please refer to D/BU #4 for additional information or contact Suzette Clark at provincial office.

8. December 6, 2014 Commemoration

2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre of December 6, 1989. With the support of Districts and Bargaining Units, the Status of Women Committee is hoping to have a display in every OSSTF/FEESO work site from December 1-5, with a social media picture flood on December 5. A D/BU with more information and an order form for posters and pins will be sent to leaders in early October. Deadline for orders is October 15.

9. National Inventory Project on Intervention Strategies for LGBTQ

Data collection for the University of Winnipeg’s national superintendent survey of school district intervention strategies has been completed. Approximately 180/430 school districts responded. OSSTF/FEESO will continue to be kept informed as the work proceeds.

10. Establishment of a Special Equity Council to Advise EQAO

EQAO is establishing a Special Equity Council to provide advice on the plan to administer EQAO testing on-line, beginning with the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test). OSSTF/FEESO and OTF have provided EQAO with lists of concerns, questions, and issues around the move to computer-based testing. Hopefully, the Council will adequately address our concerns around equity and access.

11. Communications/Political Action Committee Conference – November 21-22, 2014

“*Get Talking*”, the 2014 CPAC Conference, will take place on November 21-22 at the Westin Bristol Place Toronto Airport Hotel. Trish Hennessy, from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, is the keynote speaker. A special session for designated District or Bargaining Unit CPAC Officers will focus on understanding the role of the local CPAC

Officer, running an effective local CPAC, communications training opportunities, sharing of best practices, and networking etc. Registration is now open for the conference on the provincial website. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Fenn at provincial office.

12. **OMERS Update**

President Paul Elliott and Vice President Harvey Bischof met with George L. Cooke, Chair of the OMERS Administration Corporation, and Celine Chiovitti, Vice President, Stakeholder Relations and raised several issues of concern to our members in the OMERS plan including the central tracking of enrollment eligibility; the quality of OMERS' interaction with staff when they are assisting members; and the charge for valuations required under Family Law.

Additional updates were provided on issues including the filing of valuation, specific plan changes, pension transfer agreements and information on OMERS investments.

13. **Interim Report from the University Issues Workgroup**

The Work Group is looking at OSSTF/FEESO Policies in light of the Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA's) submitted by universities and colleges. As well, the workgroup has been providing input on Pension Issues.

14. **Mental Health – Lead Agencies**

The first 14 lead agencies have been identified and will meet with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in the fall for an orientation session. Local PSSP bargaining units, specifically those in Districts 9, 11, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, and 26 should monitor the impact of this system transformation.

15. **New Psychotherapy Act**

The new *Psychotherapy Act* is to be proclaimed on or about October 1, 2014. The act is designed to ensure that qualified people conduct psychotherapy. PSSP members who currently belong to professional colleges will likely be considered qualified. Those who are not members of a professional college must become members of the new College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. However, CYWs and CYCs who engage in psychotherapeutic activities may not meet the academic and clinical experience standards to gain admittance to the college. Children's Mental Health Ontario are advocating for an exemption for individuals who are employed by an accredited children's mental health agency, receive on-going clinical supervision from a professional registered with a college listed under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, receive on-going training and have clearly defined job descriptions and responsibilities. It is unclear how this may impact CYWs and CYCs providing services in school-based settings.

16. **Virtual Conference on Suicide Prevention – November 19-21**

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) and the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (CASP) are holding a virtual conference on casconference.ca. The cost of the conference is \$25 for members of CASP and \$75 for non-members.

However, there are also some free spots being offered for students, seniors, survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience. These will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis and will require a minor application process prior to approval.

17. **Co-options/Appointments**

Co-options were passed for the Collective Bargaining Committee, the Communication/political Action Committee and the Status of Women Committee. Appointments were passed for the Status of Women and Nominations committees.