



WELCOME BACK

On behalf of our Executive Assistant, Carolyn Caldwell, and Federation Officer, Dave Parkes, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. In September 2018 my message was: "The upcoming months may prove to be a challenging time for public educators in Ontario, but I am confident that we will overcome these challenges together." Looking back that message proved to be true. Looking forward, those words seem even more relevant today. As we continue to dedicate ourselves to protecting and enhancing public education in Ontario, now more than ever I encourage everyone to find a way to actively engage with OSSTF.

STAFFING

As the school year begins, all 59 redundant teachers from last school year have been recalled or placed in the supernumerary pool. As positions become available, supernumerary teachers will continue to be fully recalled based on seniority and qualifications. The "New Vision for Education" and its funding model is impacting our Branches in different ways, whether it is the need for more split classes, compulsory courses offered online, fewer overall course options, problematic class sizes, and so on. The District Office will continue to closely monitor all working conditions as we progress towards the government's proposed class size funding of 28:1 (compared to 22:1 this year), and as we progress through the collective bargaining process.

TEACHERS ALP

Again this year we have subscribed to the Teachers ALP website to offer suggestions on completing your ALP. On our website (www.osstfd10.ca) under the District News column, you will find the instructions for logging on to the site.

CERTIFICATION RATING STATEMENT

All members, especially new and/or occasional (OT) teachers, are reminded that they should apply for an OSSTF Certification Rating Statement to be paid according to their qualifications and experience during a long term occasional (LTO) or permanent position. *You must notify the Board that you have made an application for Certification placement or upgrade to receive any applicable retroactive pay. Members are advised to inform the Board's HR Department in writing once they have submitted their application to the OSSTF Certification Department and then forward the new/updated OSSTF Certification Rating Statement to the Board when it is received. The annual deadline to inform the Board to receive any applicable retroactive pay is **June 15**.* Prior to taking any courses intended to upgrade category, members are reminded to obtain written approval from the OSSTF Certification Department. All the requisite forms for new applications, upgrades, or course approvals can be obtained from either www.osstfd10.ca or www.osstf.on.ca.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOARD

The Board uses their email system to communicate important and often time-sensitive information with employees. All members are advised to regularly and frequently check their Board email account to remain informed of relevant communications from their employer. All members have access to the Board email system and are advised to contact the Board's IT department immediately if this access is interrupted.

RETIREMENT

Those considering retirement within the next five years should attend the OSSTF Retirement Workshop on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 beginning at 4pm at the Clubhouse at Baldoon in Wallaceburg. Staff from Provincial Office and from Educator's Financial Group will be there to present and answer questions. Please let the office know, either by email office@osstfd10.ca or phone, if you plan to attend.

Yours in solidarity,

Jennifer Kumpf, President
jkumpf@osstfd10.ca

September 18, 2019