



WELCOME BACK

On behalf of our Executive Assistant, Carolyn Caldwell, and Federation Officer, Stephen Lynch, I would like to welcome you all, including the several new members recently hired to our District, to the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to serving the District 10 membership and encourage everyone to find a way to actively engage with our organization. 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.

NEW HIRES – ENROLMENT FOR BENEFITS

All new permanent secondary teachers hired effective September 1, 2018 should have been notified by the Board that they will receive an **enrolment email** from OTIP to their board email address. Please follow the steps in the email from OTIP to complete the enrolment process. Members with questions or concerns about benefits should contact OTIP directly for further information.

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. Any teacher who is not currently at Category 4, or those that have taken courses for upgrade, should complete an application for placement or upgrade through the OSSTF Certification Department as there have been recent changes in Certification requirements. *You must notify the Board that you have made an application for Certification (category) placement or upgrade to receive any applicable retroactive pay resulting from a Certification (category) placement or change. Members are advised to inform the Board (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 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. For example, job postings are communicated via email. Members, including those on temporary leave, are advised to regularly and frequently check their Board email account to remain informed of relevant communications from the Board as our employer. All members should have access to the Board email system. If not, or if access is lost for any reason, members are advised to contact the Board's IT department immediately by phone to ensure access.

RETIREMENT

Those considering retirement within the next five years should attend the OSSTF Retirement Workshop on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 beginning at 4pm at the Clubhouse at Baldoon in Wallaceburg. Staff from Provincial Office will be there to present and answer questions. Please let Carolyn know either by email office@osstfd10.ca or phone if you plan to attend.

I wish you an enjoyable and professionally rewarding school year.