



WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the District Executive, a warm welcome to all members to the 2022-2023 Federation year. Federation Officer Dave Parkes and I, as your time released Executive, alongside Executive Assistance Carolyn Caldwell, are all hard at work at the District Office. We are pleased that September 2022 has been a return to school marked by familiarity for most, despite the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. District 10 members are commended for providing the stability our students and communities we serve need in our schools every day as we gradually emerge from pandemic restrictions and challenges. With another round of collective agreement negotiations upon us, solidarity remains critical within our membership. We're all in this together.

STAFFING

We are pleased to once again confirm there were no members in a redundant or surplus position as of September 2022's return to school. Additionally, several new permanent and occasional hires have joined the District 10 membership through spring and summer staffing cycles.

As always, the District is carefully monitoring the application of class size language and assignment of supervision duties, as data is contractually provided to the District by the employer. Members are reminded of the "layering" of central class size language in central Letter of Agreement #3 on our local language found in Article L25. Any issues with individual assignments should be discussed with your Branch President and/or the District Office as soon as possible.

CERTIFICATION RATING STATEMENTS

All new members, and any current members who are not yet in Category A4, are reminded to apply for their QECO Certification Rating Statement to be paid according to their qualifications and experience during long term occasional (LTO) and permanent positions.

Note the following collective agreement provisions:

L8.02.1 Where a Member has reason to believe they qualify for a change in category placement, the Member shall notify in writing and submit the appropriate documentation to the Board.

L8.02.2 If notice and documentation are received by the Board on or before June 15, the payment shall be retroactive to as early as September 1. However, a Member shall not receive retroactive payment for category improvement for any period of time prior to completion of the qualifications. Completion of the qualifications is deemed to be the date when the last course(s) was (were) completed.

Additional information can be found in Article L8 or by contacting the District Office. Note the important June 15 annual deadline for any applicable retro-active payments.

RETIREMENT

It's never too late to plan for retirement! Those considering retirement within the next five years are reminded to review the OSSTF District 10 website for more information about upcoming Provincial OSSTF Retirement Workshops being held virtually throughout the school year, and a local in-person offering coming later this fall. In both formats, staff from OSSTF Provincial Office and from Educator's Financial Group are presenting the workshops and are available to answer questions related to retirement. Please register if you plan to attend.

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ONTARIO RESOURCES

Provincial Office has provided the following information to be share with all members:

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) has released a [Mentally Healthy Back to School Support Package](#) to support the mental health of all students as they return to school.

Built upon the packages from previous years, this kit includes updates to key resources such as: [The First Ten Days](#); [Start Well](#); [Listen, Believe and Act](#); and [How to Support a Mentally Healthy Back to School for Your Child](#). Also available within the support package are practical, evidence-informed resources to promote and protect mental health at school. Including a wide-range of materials such as tip sheets, info sheets, lesson plans, social media shareables, videos, guides, and reflection tools.

All of the materials align with the Ontario curriculum and promote a culturally-responsive approach. There are resources to support school leaders, educators, parents and families, students, and more.

Many resources are now available on the School Mental Health Ontario website and will be shared through social media in the weeks to come. Others (like a PD Day slide deck) have already been provided to each board's Mental Health Leadership Team and Director of Education.

The updated website, now live, is resource focused so that school staff can quickly and easily access classroom resources that support student mental health. The website enhancements also include the launch of a [new student website](#). The new student site centres student perspectives and provides easy access to mental health learning, tools and supports with a look and feel unique to the student audience.

Yours in solidarity,

Jennifer Kumpf, President

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