

## Report from the November Meeting of Provincial Council – November 15, 2013

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- 1. Together Fairness Works** (*PC#19, page 1*)  
Funding is available to every bargaining unit to help members become involved in our campaign. OSSTF/FEESO will be conducting telephone polls of our members in January to determine their opinions re: unions. A second poll will be conducted a year later to determine whether or not our campaign has had an impact on our members' attitudes.
- 2. OSSTF/FEESO Education Platform**  
The OSSTF/FEESO Education Platform will be officially launched at Queen's Park on Lobby Day. Following that, it will be sent to stakeholders and other interested parties and will be available to districts and bargaining units.
- 3. Bill 122** (*PC#19, page 1*)  
Bill 122 discussions continue with the Ministry. The bill is unlikely to be passed until March. OSSTF/FEESO is working with the other education unions to develop a unified voice on common issues. Preparations for the next round of bargaining continue. Local leaders and the membership at large will be surveyed to get input into issues that should be discussed at a possible central table. There will be a meeting of presidents and chief negotiators on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 4. School Board Efficiencies and Modernization** (*PC#19, page 9*)  
OSSTF/FEESO is participating in the consultations. The Ministry is looking at under-utilized and small schools, declining enrollment supports, e-books and e-learning (e.g. the possibility of requiring one credit be done by e-learning), use of new technologies (e.g. "Bring your own device" policies). OSSTF/FEESO will raise the issue of reducing school systems as outlined in our education platform.
- 5. CLC** (*PC#19, page 12*)  
We are working with other CLC partners re: cuts to CIDA funding. Government has shifted to funding economic development rather than NGOs. We have joined "Common Frontiers".  
Bill 377 (An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Requirements for Labour Organizations) has been sent back to the senate in its original form. The bill is an attempt to weaken the unions under the guise of financial transparency.
- 6. Provincial Benefits Plan Update**  
The Benefits Plan work group has been formed and will meet on Nov. 18. Information will be collected from local leaders through a web-based survey. There will also be a survey to the members re: their thoughts on their benefits. Town hall discussions will be held and a

communication hub will be created that will allow for leaders to leave questions. Results of surveys and plan discussions will be shared through the web-hub.

**7. Preliminary Report from the Workload and Volunteerism of Educators (WAVE) Survey** *(PC#19, page 2)*

The WAVE survey designed to study the workload, volunteerism, and participation in board and Ministry-directed activities undertaken by OSSTF/FEESO members is currently in progress. Some preliminary results include:

- Over 50% of respondents spend at least 5 hours each week conducting extracurricular activities, uncompensated work or both
- Respondents report an increase in levels of stress and workload.

Reminders to encourage further participation are being issued through D/BU memorandum and other avenues. The survey can be easily accessed until Saturday November 30, 2013, at the following website: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WAVE\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WAVE_Survey). Questions can be directed to Suzette Clark by email at [suzette.clark@osstf.ca](mailto:suzette.clark@osstf.ca)

**8. More Mental Health Services for University and College Students** *(PC#19, page 8)*

The Ontario Government has launched a new mental health help line for college and university students. The help line is called Good2Talk, and operates province-wide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is free, confidential, and anonymous, and offers professional counseling, mental health information, and connections to local resources. The website, [www.good2talk.ca](http://www.good2talk.ca), is still in its preliminary stages.

**9. Regulation 274** *(PC#19, page 10)*

In August, the Government committed to look at the regulation and recently commissioned Charles Ungerleider and Ruth Bauamann (Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group) to hold meetings over the next month with individual organizations to hear about issues, ideas, and specific suggestions for improvements to the regulation. They will then meet with representatives of every school board and its local teacher unions to gather information regarding current effective hiring practices, positive outcomes, and challenges experienced since the regulation came into effect. OSSTF/FEESO's position along with a Q and A regarding Reg. 274 can be found at: <http://www.osstf.on.ca/reg-274-info>

**10. MAC 217-13 University Issues Work Group** *(PC#19, page 13)*

The MAC 217-13 University Issues Work Group has been established and a preliminary summary of the first meeting held on October 18, 2013 was provided.

**11. MAC 203 Work Group Update** *(PC#19, page 17)*

- The Negotiations and Contract Maintenance Department has created a chart of areas in which potential savings may be found has been created.
- The Member Protection Department has begun to study the legal basis for the current education system, along with the necessary legislative steps that would be required to restructure the system in accordance with our policy.

- The Educational Services Department has created a summary of findings as well as a board-by-board description of special education programs. In brief, the public system is much more likely to provide specialized supports for students with special education needs.
- The work group will seek the support of a research company to assist in determining the appropriate questions and messages we should use to promote this education reform.
- The concept of two public secular systems will be introduced in the OSSTF/FEESO education platform at Lobby Day on December 5th and the workgroup will debrief the reaction of MPPs and put forward a longer-term political action strategy at AMPA 2014.

**12. First Nations, Inuit, Metis Advisory Work Group** *(PC#19, page 18)*

The First Nations, Inuit, Métis Advisory Work Group (FNIM AWG) reviewed a number of issues including the on-going protests against fracking in New Brunswick, the OFL Aboriginal Circle, SAY Magazine's Special Labour Edition, the Aboriginal Summer Literacy Camps held at Frontier College and EQAO Data for FNIM students.

**13. The OSSTF/FEESO Annual Action Plan** *(PC#19, page 20)*

The theme for the Annual Action Plan will be "OSSTF/FEESO, your union." The intention will be to create an Annual Action Plan that augments and extends the Together Fairness Works initiative's focus on shifting our members from seeing OSSTF/FEESO as "the union" to seeing it as "my union." Districts, bargaining units, committees, councils, sectors, provincial executive, staff, and members at large are encouraged to submit input for the Annual Action Plan. Submissions must be into the provincial office by November 22, 2013.

**14. Bill 88: Child and Family Services Amendment Act** *(PC#19-A, page 12)*

Bill 88 proposes changes to the Child and Family Services Act that would extend protection services and support to 16 and 17 year olds.

**15. Ontario College of Teachers Information** *(PC#19-A, page 12)*

The Governing Council of the COT met on October 4, 2013. Staff also attended meetings with the Investigations and Hearings Department (October, 8, 2013), and the Standards and Practice Accreditation Units (October 8, 2013).

**16. OSSTF/FEESO Workshops Requested for Member Discipline Issues** *(PC#19-A, page 30)*

Presidents must consult with their field secretary and the department head, Educational Services prior to finalizing any agreement with the employer re: the participation of members in workshops to address disciplinary concerns. Educational Services staff has begun examining how the existing Classroom Management workshop material can be modified to be delivered to an individual.

**17. Survey on Domestic Violence in the Workplace** (PC#19-A, page 19)

On December 6, 2013 the CLC will be launching a survey for Canadian workers regarding their experiences with domestic violence in the workplace. Please encourage your members to participate.

**18. Faculty of Education Work Group** (PC#19-A, page 27)

The first FEWG meeting of 2013-2014 was held on October 4-5, 2013. Faculties are concerned about the cut in funding for initial teacher education that will take effect in September 2015 at the same time that the program is being expanded to double its current length. Several of the faculties are discussing ways of lowering their costs including such things as offering fewer teachables and putting some pre-service courses online.

**19. 2014 OTF/OADE Conference - February 21-22, 2014** (PC#19-A, page 28)

This year's conference, *Creating Circles of Hope in Teacher Education*, will take place on February 21-22, 2014. The keynote speaker will encourage conference attendees to look at policies and practices through a First Nations/Metis/Inuit lens so that different ways of knowing can help us re-envision a more equitable and sustainable future for all students in Ontario.

**20. Ontario Federation of Labour Convention November 25-29, 2013** (PC#19-A, page 28)

The theme of this year's OFL Convention is "Rising Together!" There will be 76 OSSTF/FEESO members attending the convention.

**21. Motions**

1. **BIRT** Provincial Council approve covering over expenditures in the 2012-2013 General Account by the yearend surplus in the General Account.  
**CARRIED**
2. **BIRT** Provincial Council request that the Provincial Executive investigate the feasibility of having OSSTF/FEESO support for members bringing complaints to the Ontario College of Teachers against principals, with a report to the next meeting of Provincial Council.  
**CARRIED**
3. **BIRT** the timelines in the Provincial Council motion on the revoking of the Life Memberships be extended to AMPA 2015 with regular reports to Provincial Council and the recommended process and required AMPA motions will be presented to Provincial Council no later than January 2015.  
**CARRIED**

4. **BIRT** that Provincial Council ratify the terms of reference and the selection criteria for hiring one (1) Executive Assistant in the Educational Services Department of the Political Action, Communication and Educational Services Division.  
**CARRIED**
  
5. **BIRT** Provincial Council request that the Provincial Executive to assign appropriate staff and provide the appropriate resources so that OSSTF/FEESO may participate in 2014 World Pride Parade, such participation to include, but not limited to, a float.  
**CARRIED**
  
6. **BIRT** Provincial OSSTF/FEESO provide a \$3000 donation to Operation Christmas Cheer.  
**CARRIED**