



H1N1

On Wednesday October 21, OSSTF/FEESO met with representatives of the Teacher Affiliates, CUPE, Directors of Education, Ontario Principals Council, Ontario Public School Boards Association, the Catholic and French Trustees Association, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health (Dr. Arlene King), from the Ministry of Education (Minister Wynne) and from the Ministry of Labour. The meeting was convened to discuss issues related to the outbreak and progress of the pH1N1 (pandemic H1N1) virus and its impact on the education sector.

Dr. Arlene King, the Chief Medical Officer of Health provided an update. A summary is listed here:

Current Status--What We Know (October 21):

- pH1N1 is currently the predominant circulating influenza virus
- Most illness has been mild, with low rates of hospitalizations and deaths
 - 431 hospitalizations (405 have been discharged)
 - 27 deaths, most of which had underlying health conditions
- Severe disease causing hospitalization occurs most frequently in children and young adults
- Risk factors for severe outcomes also include chronic medical conditions: people over 65; children under 5; pregnant women; people living in remote/isolated communities; resident of long-term care homes
- Health system is busy but coping.

The LKDSB Pandemic Plan

Our Board has an Administrative Procedure for 'Pandemic Influenza Protocol' which is posted on the Board's website. It was developed for the possible outbreak of SARS, not pH1N1. We met with the Board on October 30 and outlined some of our concerns regarding their plan. Some of our suggestions have been implemented with regard to communication. School specific strategies for dealing with the pandemic remain vague at this point in time. Community activity levels for influenza-like illness available at www.ontario.ca/flu (Ontario Influenza Bulletin).

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

This year's meeting will be held in Toronto on March 12 – March 15, 2010. We invite members wishing to apply to be an AMPA Delegate or Alternate to remit a brief submission to our office by November 27, 2009. Posters are in the schools. We encourage new faces to apply to be part of this event. It is the venue where Federation decisions are made and gives an excellent opportunity to gain a Provincial perspective on matters pertaining to the Federation.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL ACT, 2009

There is a legislative requirement under this act to provide training regarding “Safe Schools and Equity and Inclusive Education”. The Board is required to train a team at each worksite. The team should consist of a principal or VP, one teaching staff and one non-teaching staff member. The Board is developing E-training for all staff. We have been invited to offer input and will update you once the direction this training is going, is made clear to us.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There are two opportunities available for members. Both are posted on our website www.osstfd10.ca

The **Regional Symposia 2009-2010** (London, November 27, 2009) is on a first come first serve basis. Members complete the registration form and Request for Leave form online. There is no requirement to contact the District office.

The **Social Justice Conference** (Toronto, December 4, 2009) is also posted on line. Please contact the District office (office@osstfd10.ca) if you are interested in attending. The number of attendees from District 10 will be limited.

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