



### WELCOME BACK

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday and are returning to work ready to tackle the challenges of the last few weeks of the semester.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Every year, it seems, there is confusion about what teachers should do if inclement weather delays or prevents them from attending school.

Your obligation is to contact the school to say you will be late or won't arrive at all because of the weather. Board regulations state that "staff employed by the Lambton Kent District School Board are expected to use reasonable diligence when traveling to their place of employment during periods of inclement weather". Further, Board policy states that the LKDSB values the safety of its employees and does not expect them to be put at risk trying to get to work. In the case of fog, the expectation is that employees would report to their work site when conditions improve.

### OSSTF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

OSSTF offers scholarship and award opportunities to assist members undertaking research projects, masters or doctoral programs, undergraduate degrees or diplomas, or travel plans. The deadline date for such scholarships and awards is January 31, 2011. Application forms and the criteria for qualification for the awards are available on the OSSTF/FEESO website at [www.osstf.on.ca/services](http://www.osstf.on.ca/services). The forms may now be completed on-line.

Questions regarding these scholarship and awards should be directed to Bill Reith or Connie Ying at the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office. 1-800-267-7867 or by email at [reithb@osstf.on.ca](mailto:reithb@osstf.on.ca) or [yingc@osstf.on.ca](mailto:yingc@osstf.on.ca).

### SALARY INCREASES THROUGH RE-EVALUATION

Re-evaluation of Certification files could lead to thousands of dollars in salary increases for many members who apply!

There have been several changes to Certification policies over the last two years. All of these changes and more are listed by year of implementation on the "Recent Changes" section of the Certification pages on the provincial website ([www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca)).

Members who think these changes could apply to them should complete **Certification Application Form #2 – Re-evaluation** (also available on the OSSTF/FEESO website [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca)) and submit it by mail to the Certification Department at 60 Mobile Drive, Toronto ON, M4A 2P3, or by fax at 1-416-751-0910.

Members who are not at Group 4 and who have completed **any** additional coursework should also submit Form #2 along with original copies of the transcripts of the completed courses. In fact, any member who is not at Group 4 and who has not been re-evaluated since 2006 should submit Form #2 to determine if the many changes that have occurred since that time would be of benefit to their rating. Do not miss out on these opportunities for salary increases!