



OSSTF/FEESO Status of Women Committee Update January 2011

1. Status of Women Conference – November 2010

A women's place is in her union/La femme, une force syndicale.

In November, over eighty women from OSSTF/FEESO districts across the province took part in the triennial Status of Women Conference. The conference was built around a “Rosie the Riveter” theme and highlighted the contributions women members make to our union, as well as the role unions can and should play in building women’s equality.

Delegates welcomed the opportunity to celebrate successes, share experiences, develop skills and explore future challenges as they took part in workshops on bargaining, networking, organizing, lobbying and speaking out. Comments by keynote speakers Barb Byers, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress, and Judy Rebick, well-known feminist activist, helped frame the discussion. And the Friday night social in “Rosie’s Suite” was a great chance to show off our singing and placard making skills! On Saturday, newly equipped with OSSTF/FEESO Rosie bags, headscarves and toolkits, the sisters headed home with renewed energy and ideas for action.

For more on the conference, check out the most recent issue of *Update*. The new issue is also posted online at <http://update.dgtpub.com/2010/2010-12-31/home.php>

Conference bags featuring the Rosie logo and theme (English and French) will be available for sale at the Status of Women booth at AMPA 2011.

PASS IT ON! Make sure women members in your district/bargaining unit know about this online opportunity to learn more about financial planning...

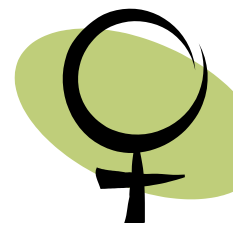
Educators’ Financial Group (EFG) WEBINAR – February 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Financially savvy women top the class: A woman's guide to building her own financial style

Educators Financial Group, established in 1975 by OSSTF/FEESO, is hosting a web-based financial seminar on February 7th, 2011 that is tailored to women in the education community. Learn to develop a plan that works with your current lifestyle and your future.

By tuning into the 45 minute webinar on February 7th at 7 p.m. you can find out:

- How different life changes affect a woman's finances
- How to better understand your investment options
- The financial impact of future care giving duties
- How to better protect you and your family



Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/962482585>

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2. Francophone Status of Women Outreach

For the past five years, the Status of Women Committee has organized regional Outreach Workshops on a rotating basis for women members in all districts. This year the workshop for Francophone members was held just prior to the SW Conference in Toronto and brought together women members representing FEESO bargaining units and districts from across the province. As with other Outreach Workshops, an important goal was to strengthen the network of members interested in working on women's equality issues, and to develop ideas for action. The event was organized and led by Suzanne Landry of the *Status of Women Committee*, together with H el ene Berthiaume of the *Comit  des services en langue fran aise*. Thanks also to Kerry Houlahan, provincial office staff and liaison to the CSLF, for her workshop on using a gender equity lens to address member issues.

3. New OSSTF/FEESO Resource:

Still Not Laughing: Challenging Sexual Harassment in Our Schools



Still Not Laughing: Challenging Sexual Harassment in Our School is a new publication by OSSTF/FEESO. This annotated bibliography is aimed at helping members address the important issue of sexual harassment and offers updated information on a wide range of English and French language resources, including websites, curriculum materials, novels, advocacy groups, film and more. The resource has been circulated at Provincial Council and the Status of Women Conference. Additional copies will also be distributed to bargaining unit offices and worksites so they can be readily accessed by members. Orders should be placed through Catherine Renfrew (renfrec@osstf.on.ca) at provincial office.



The booklet has also been posted on the OSSTF/FEESO website. A companion document that explores strategies for change and offers specific ideas for action will be released later this year.

And don't forget it's nomination time.....

OSSTF/FEESO STATUS OF WOMEN AWARD

The Status of Women Award recognizes an OSSTF/FEESO member for her activism and leadership on women's economic and equality issues. This award is sponsored by the Provincial Status of Women Committee and presented at AMPA each year.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2011. The nomination form and information on the award criteria is posted on the OSSTF/FEESO website, as follows:

English: <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=348d2039-a5bc-4748-946b-4759efdbfd17>

French: <http://www.osstf.on.ca/Default.aspx?DN=348d2039-a5bc-4748-946b-4759efdbfd17&l=French>