



JUNE 1, 2011

DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CIDA Cancellation of Assistance

Humanitarian projects undertaken for decades by Canadian teachers through the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and funded in large part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have had their funding rejected. CIDA's decision to cut funding to CTF's international assistance programs will effectively terminate most CTF initiatives, with the exception of Project Overseas. Project Overseas is often the only PD that teachers in developing countries receive. Project Overseas 2011 is scheduled to have 52 Canadian teachers working with 74 co-tutors offering PD to 2,056 teachers. The lost funding will negatively affect more than 100,000 children in 12 countries this year alone.

Youth Mental Health

In January 2011, The Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health was formed. OSSTF was invited as an inaugural member along with 25 other organizations who believe that fostering social and emotional health as part of healthy child development must be a priority in Ontario Schools and a priority for integrated public policy in the province. As a coalition member, OSSTF advocates for the conditions that promote student success in school life and recognizes that this is strongly linked with student mental health and well-being.

June 2, 2011 will be a day where new partnerships are formed to identify priorities for integrated public policy for children and youth mental health.

Negotiations Update

OSSTF bargaining units at Brock and Algoma Universities were the first to encounter employers who insisted on complying with the wage restraint policy during their recent round of negotiations. After going into provincial resumption for negotiations and taking strike votes, both bargaining units have now ratified new collective agreements with true wage and benefit increases.

Walk for Kids Help Phone

The Walk for Kids Help Phone is the counselling service's most important fundraising event of the year. Funds raised go directly to support the work of Kids Help Phone skilled professional counsellors, who respond immediately to kids' needs, explore options and equip them with skills to meet life's challenges. The 10th annual *Walk for Kids Help Phone* took place on May 1 in a number of Ontario communities. OSSTF district and bargaining unit leaders organized participation in at least eight walks. Kids Help Phone is a designated charity of OSSTF and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Electronic Communication & Social Media

The Ontario College of Teachers has planned information sessions on their *Professional Advisory on Electronic Communication and Social Media*, which was released on April 12, 2011. These sessions are intended for members of the college, employer groups, school board administrators and the general public. The Provincial Executive recommends that a representative of the Teacher/Occasional Teacher bargaining units attend one of the information sessions in order to monitor the session that will be attended by school boards.