



APRIL 6, 2011

DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Full Time Equivalency Committee Report

The committee has reached consensus on changes to the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) calculations after two years of thoughtful deliberation. The committee believes that the proposed new method meets the objective of facilitating the calculation, increasing transparency and eliminating exceptions.

Provincial Election Readiness

The Provincial Executive and Communications/Political Action Department, in conjunction with the provincial Communications/Political Action Committee, have been working on a provincial election readiness strategy. A chart outlining the activities and a timeline for proposed election readiness activities are ready to go.

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

The OCBCCC and the Ontario Federation of Labour have launched a provincial campaign, *Child Care: Ontario Can't Work Without It*, that calls on the Ontario Government to make affordable child care a public priority. The immediate goal is to highlight the crisis now facing pre-school centres and to secure stabilization funding for this sector in the upcoming spring budget and as the government rolls out its full-day learning program for four and five-year olds over the next few years.

Aboriginal Education Workgroup

The workgroup is recommending that OSSTF establish a more permanent voice within the Federation for First Nations/Inuit/Metis members by establishing an advisory workgroup. As well, there is a recommendation that OSSTF continue to support the Lieutenant Governor's literacy initiative through our sponsorship of an aboriginal Summer Literacy Camp.

Franco-Ontarian Flag

Provincial Council passed a motion to have the Franco-Ontarian flag flown at Mobile Drive on a permanent basis.

Employment Insurance Benefit Denials

Since August, we have been made aware of a number of our support staff members being denied Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits. There have been no recent changes to the EI Legislation to explain the disentitlement of benefits; however, the Commission has implemented a new Policy Procedure and Guidance for jobs in teaching-related occupations, especially those in Early Childhood Education and Adult Education. OSSTF has assisted members at the first level of appeal in twelve EI cases and have argued successfully before local EI Board of Referees in all instances. Of the twelve cases, four have been appealed to an Umpire and one case has been heard. We are awaiting the decision, which is expected in March of 2011.

OSSTF District 35 - Strike Action Votes

Members of two university support staff bargaining units have voted in favour of taking strike action if necessary to reach their contract goals. Brock University voted 85% and Algoma University 96% in favour of strike action.

New OSSTF Provincial Executive

2011 was an election year for the OSSTF Provincial Executive. President Ken Coran was re-elected, by acclamation. For the positions of Vice President, Paul Elliot was re-elected and Harvey Bischof elected. Earl Burt continues as Treasurer, by acclamation. For the positions of Executive Officer, Scott Marshall was re-elected and Cindy Dubu  and Leslie Wolfe were elected. Pierre C t  continues in his position as General Secretary.