

REPORT FORM MEETING OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2009

NEW OSTF MEMBERS:

OSSTF is pleased to announce that the Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association members have recently voted to transfer jurisdiction to OSSTF and become our members.

THREE NEW BILLS:

Three bills are being monitored by OSSTF.

Bill 157 (which has received royal assent) would legislate the responsibility of school employees to report serious incidents of student violence to the school principal and to intervene when they witness serious anti-social student behaviour. OSSTF supports these objectives but believes that the more consultation is required to address a number of concerns.

Bill 177 (currently in its second reading) is intended to clarify the roles of school boards, trustees & directors, but components of the bill threaten the autonomy of local school boards. OSSTF has prepared a written submission on the bill.

Bill 183 would establish an Ontario College of Trades. While the OSSTF does not oppose this legislation, many concerns regarding the authority of the College were presented in a submission.

TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS

The grade 9/10 revised Technology curriculum was released in May and is now on the Ministry website. Regarding Teacher qualifications, the OSSTF will continue to put forward its position that current teachers (who have been teaching what are now designated as technology courses) need to be grandfathered, and that going forward, after the 2009- 2010 school year, all newly certified teachers will need to have the appropriate qualifications in order to teach those courses.

UNDERSTANDING FOOD SECURITY

OSSTF's fourth Common Threads resource is in final production & will be sent to the districts in October. *Hungry Change* will feature a DVD and 200 pages of lesson plans dealing with a range of food security topics.

POLITICAL UNREST IN HONDURAS

Democratically elected president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya was overthrown by the military on June 28. The people have suffered violence at the hands of the regressive military regime. OSSTF has sent a letter to Prime Minister Harper requesting that all aid to Honduras be suspended until such time as duly elected President is returned to power.

EARLY LEARNING REPORT

The report of the Early Learning Advisor, Dr. Charles Pascal, to the Premier was released in June. The report, called *With Our Best Future in Mind*, can be downloaded from www.ontario.ca/ontprodconsume/groups/content/@gosp/@initiative/documents/documet/ont06-018899.pdf. The Provincial Executive has approved setting up a group to review recommendations of the Pascal Report. The intent is to develop recommendations and a plan by studying relevant issues and potential implications.

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

In an effort to bring more focus to the Annual Action Plan of 2010-2011, the Provincial Executive is asking for submissions around a specific theme. The theme for the 20102011 Action Plan will be Membership Outreach.

TEACHER VOICE ON ASSESSMENT (TVA)

The OTF's TVA project will survey all secondary school teachers, including Long Term Occasional teachers, between January and February of 2010, by way of an online survey. The issues included in the survey will be those of credit integrity, assessment, evaluation, and reporting. The Provincial Executive has endorsed the OTF project.

PAY EQUITY

The Near North District School Board posted a new pay equity plan for the District 4, EA/PSSP bargaining unit in June. An updated list of the status of pay equity settlements was also included. In May, OSSTF received a significant determination by the Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal for the District 23, Grand Erie ESS bargaining unit. The Tribunal declared that "each step of the pay grid must be adjusted by an equal dollar amount" as per OSSTF contention. At Summer Leadership a new workshop and guide were launched to assist leaders and members with the pay equity process.

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Planning has started for the new regional symposia from the Leaders of Tomorrow initiative. The focus of the symposia will be a more in-depth look at how OSSTF functions. The workshop will be offered in the spring of 2010.

NEW MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & TRAINING

The Annual Action Plan, 2009/2010 calls for the creation of a New Member Engagement and Training Workgroup to promote involvement of our new and younger members (under 30). The last issue of *Update* included a call for members under 30 to apply to the workgroup and there is also a link on our website.

DISTRICT OFFICE ACCESSIBILITY

MAC 229, from AMPA 2009, directs the Provincial Executive to gather data and prepare advice on district offices becoming accessible for persons with disabilities as required by the Ontario Human Rights Code. We will also be considering the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 as it also relates to accessibility standards. A report will be submitted to the January Provincial Council meeting.

CARBON NEUTRAL AMPA

A miscellaneous action item at last year's AMPA, MAC-230-09, directed the Provincial Executive to report annually, at the first Provincial Council meeting of the Federation year, how the previous AMPA was made carbon-neutral. For AMPA 2009, a cheque for \$1,500 was sent to *Less*, which was ranked highest in a 2009 report from the David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING & AWARDS

AMPA established an account to assist districts and bargaining units to support environmentally progressive initiatives. The final version of the application for Account 2065 is available in the financial Handbook. Two sets of environmental awards were also established. These awards are criteria based so it is hoped that most districts and/or bargaining units are recognized in the inaugural year.

LEARNING FOR ALL

The electronic response form and the draft of Learning for All, K-12 document has been shared with the following OSSTF groups: Educational Services Committee, Credit Integrity Workgroup, Specialized Training and Leadership Assessment, Evaluation & Report Workshop attendees, District 19 Branch Presidents. Recipients of the document were asked to provide their input on the content of the document as well as monitor implementation strategies and professional development opportunities in their worksites and to provide information. A District/Bargaining Unit memo also be issued requesting that each bargaining unit submit one copy of the feedback form.