

OSSTF Lobby Day: December 1, 2009

Occasional Teacher President Al Duffy and myself represented OSSTF District 10 at this year's Lobby Day at Queen's Park in Toronto.

After training the day prior, we arrived at Queen's Park with two scheduled meetings. The first meeting on the agenda was Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Maria Van Bommel (Liberal).

Mrs. Van Bommel was very interested in what we had to say and had a number of positive viewpoints regarding OSSTF issues. She understood our belief that the School Information Finder website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/>) could be a detriment to education in Ontario. We believe that all schools in Ontario have qualified teachers who deliver a quality education. Allowing schools to be compared by how many parents have graduated university or how many students have special needs serves no constructive purpose.

We also touched on such topics as the education system being overloaded with legislation – although much of it being positive – and the idea of credit integrity.

Our second meeting was to be with Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey (PC). Unfortunately, neither Mr. Bailey nor his staff showed up for the scheduled meeting in his office.

Overall the day was a success with OSSTF members meeting with MPPs from across the province on the same important issues.

James Grant
OSSTF District 10 CPAC Officer