



## WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the District Executive and District 10 Office staff, welcome to the 2023-2024 Federation year! A special welcome is also extended to the several new members recently hired to our District. As part of your local leadership team, we look forward to serving District 10 members and encourage everyone to find a way to actively engage with our organization. Note the various vacant positions currently available at the local level just waiting for an interested member (like YOU!) to fill. We'd love to have you join us!

No matter the role you may have within the District membership, in the face of both anticipated and unknown challenges the education sector will undoubtedly encounter in the months ahead, we are confident we will overcome them when working together *in solidarity*.

## BARGAINING PATHWAY FRAMEWORK AND ALL-MEMBER VOTE

As has been previously communicated, OSSTF District 10 members have an opportunity to vote on the centrally-proposed bargaining pathway framework. Online voting runs is available from September 8 - September 27, 2023. If accepted, the proposed pathway allows central bargaining to continue until October 27, 2023.

Visit the [Member Vote on Bargaining Pathway page](#) on the OSSTF Provincial website for specific information about the proposal and your opportunity to vote.

Provincial Office has hosted multiple town halls throughout the month of September to discuss this proposal and answer questions from the membership. Participation in the town halls is highly encouraged. After our local, in-person District 10 meeting, the final provincial virtual town hall will be held Saturday, September 23 at 1:00pm.

Members are strongly encouraged to have their voice heard through the online vote. To be able to participate in the vote using the online voting centre, you must be able to access the members-only section of the provincial website.

## STAFFING UPDATES

We are pleased to confirm there were no members in a redundant or surplus position as of September 2023 and, in fact, several new permanent and occasional teacher members have joined District 10 through recent summer staffing cycles.

As is always the case, District staff are carefully monitoring the application of class size language and assignment of supervision duties with data that is contractually provided by the employer. Members are reminded of the "layering" of central class size language on our local language found in Article L25. Any issues with individual assignments should be discussed with your Branch President and/or the District Office as soon as possible.

## HEALTH BENEFITS – Changes For All and New Enrollment Details

A reminder to long-term occasional (LTO) members that effective September 1, 2023 there was a change to direct billing for the OSSTF health benefits plan. Applicable members are now required to enroll in direct billing via pre-authorized withdrawals during the benefits enrolment process.

A reminder to permanent members that effective February 1, 2024, direct billing of plan member contributions (rather than payroll deduction) for all remaining OSSTF members will be implemented. Information will be communicated by OTIP to plan members on the process to enroll in pre-authorized withdrawals prior to the February 1, 2024, transition date. These member-paid contributions will be taken on the 10th of each month, beginning February 10, 2024.

All new permanent secondary teachers hired effective September 1, 2023 AND any new LTO teachers with assignments longer than 90 calendar days should have been notified by the employer that they will receive an enrolment email from OTIP to their LKDSB email address. Please follow the steps in the email from OTIP to complete the enrolment process. ***Be sure to watch for this email closely—there is a very limited sign-up window for those eligible.***

Members with any questions or concerns about health benefits can contact the District Office or OTIP directly for further information.

### **CERTIFICATION RATING STATEMENTS**

All new members, and any current members who are not yet in Category A4, are reminded to apply for their QECO Certification Rating Statement to be paid according to their qualifications and experience throughout long term occasional (LTO) and permanent positions.

Of note are the following collective agreement provisions:

*L8.02.1 Where a Member has reason to believe they qualify for a change in category placement, the Member shall notify in writing and submit the appropriate documentation to the Board.*

*L8.02.2 If notice and documentation are received by the Board on or before June 15, the payment shall be retroactive to as early as September 1. However, a Member shall not receive retroactive payment for category improvement for any period of time prior to completion of the qualifications. Completion of the qualifications is deemed to be the date when the last course(s) was (were) completed.*

Additional information can be found in Article L8 or by contacting the District Office. Note the important June 15 annual deadline for any applicable retro-active payments.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (*In Honour of Marion Drysdale*)**

This year's theme is "*This Hits Different – The Power of Language*". Entry forms and posters have been sent directly to schools from Provincial Office. The deadline for submissions in the District 10 Office is **November 15**. Local judging will then take place and the winning entries will be sent on for Regional and Provincial adjudication. Contact the District Office if you would like us to pick up the entries. Good luck to all those participating.

### **RETIREMENT**

It's never too early to plan for retirement! Those considering retirement within the next five years in particular are reminded to review the OSSTF District 10 website for more information about a local in-person offering coming to the District later this year, and any virtual workshops that may additionally be offered. In both formats, staff from OSSTF Provincial Office and from Educator's Financial Group present the workshops and are available to answer member questions specific to retirement from OSSTF.

*Yours in solidarity,*

Jennifer Kumpf, President  
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September 19, 2023