



## TBU President's Report

February 8, 2019 – Council

I hope everyone has been enjoying the crazy weather we have been having. Semester 1 ended with bus cancellations on exam day and Semester 2 started the same way. Hopefully, the weather will start improving now that we made it through January!

As you are aware, the Ford Government has already announced cuts to the Universities and Colleges. Shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Education invited education partners to provide input into questions re: **Class Size Engagement and Ontario School Board Hiring Practices**.

While many of the recent announcements appear elementary focused, we have to remember that although we have class size caps in our collective agreements, the staffing generation ratio is 22/1 in the regulations. If the government changes the ratio to 23/1 it would mean a significant drop in the funding. Many of the specialized programs could be in jeopardy.

Additionally, Regulation 274 which emphasizes seniority and qualifications based hiring is under fire. While there may be some limitations which need to be adjusted, it is important that the essence of Reg. 274 remains intact as it prevents hiring based on nepotism and other types of favouritism.

The Ministry of Education consultation will close February 27<sup>th</sup>. Members are encouraged to complete the consultation surveys, but DO NOT complete the separate guiding questions. In order to receive the survey, you can email the Ministry at [www.information.net@ontario.ca](mailto:www.information.net@ontario.ca) or print out the attached consultation documents in D/BU 94.

You can participate in the consultation by submitting your feedback by February 22, 2019 to:

**CLASS SIZE ENGAGEMENT & KINDERGARTEN:** [EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca](mailto:EDULABFINANCE@ontario.ca)

**HIRING PRACTICES:** [PTPSB@ontario.ca](mailto:PTPSB@ontario.ca)

**It is important that your feedback is sent to the correct address.**

As you can see, the Ford Government is targeting education on all fronts. OSSTF wants the Ford Government to know that as educators we know that cuts to education hurts our students and our classrooms.

Protecting and Enhancing Public Education

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Despite the weather yesterday, we had a great turnout at our **NO CUTS TO EDUCATION RALLY**. Toques and hand warmers were handed out to those that braved the snow, sleet, ice pellets and cold. It was great to see so many members out! A number of other unions such as OECTA, ETFO, CUPE, and member of Labour Council joined us at the rally. We truly appreciated their support. Thank you to everyone that helped organize and a big thank you to everyone who came out to the rally. Your support and willingness to stand together and send a message to this government is so important.

### **Negotiations**

OSSTF has created a short video series to educate members. The videos do a great job of explaining how the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act and the two tiered bargaining process work. There will be a total of three videos, but two are available online right now and can be accessed at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/news/collective-bargaining-bulletin.aspx> or you can go to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2daDwClpEgc&t=95s>. Think of a way that you can share these with staff at your sites.

Last but not least, both provincial and local surveys will be coming out in the near future. Please encourage members to go to [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca), log in, and click on the MyOSSTF button on the left hand side and then click on the Voting Centre button. Here you will need to provide your non-Board email to register to participate in the Provincial Bargaining Priorities Survey. Once this is completed, the survey will be emailed to you at a later date. The deadline to complete this process has been extended to **February 8, 2019**.

Our local survey will be sent out separately.

Please keep an eye out for these surveys and encourage members to complete these. We want our collective voice to be heard!

### **OSSTF District 25 – Ottawa School Transportation Authority**

*Let us not take thought for our separate interest, but let us help one another.*

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OSSTF District 25 OSTA is one of our newly formed bargaining units. They are small bargaining unit and may be heading toward a strike with their employer. Understandable they are concerned and as OSSTF, we need to let them know that although their bargaining unit is small in number, they have 60, 000 OSSTF members standing behind them and supporting them.

As a District, we have sent a letter of support and an offer of a financial donation to assist if they end up on strike. They know that District 2, OSSTF is standing with them in solidarity and our support is much appreciated.

### **AMPA 2019**

AMPA 2019 will take place in Toronto from March 9-11, 2019. This year is an election year and should be quite interesting. I have chosen to run for Executive Office and although we have a small delegation going from District 2, I am hoping that I will get elected!

The following positions on our Provincial Executive will be elected:

President (1 position)

Vice-President (2 positions)

Treasurer (1 position)

Executive Officer (3 positions)

This year at AMPA, we will be conducting our elections using an electronic voting system. These means that results will be tallied very quickly.

### **OSSTF 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has been busy planning and preparing for our local 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. These celebrations will take place throughout District 2, Algoma. Our local committee has planned the Sault and Central one for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and tickets are on sale for \$10. I will keep you posted as other celebrations are announced. After all of Doug Ford's announcements (and more to come I am sure), we will need to celebrate!

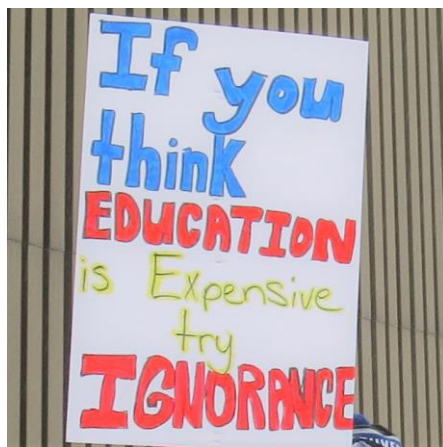
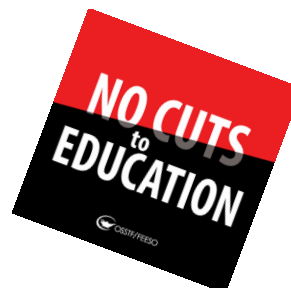
Yours in Solidarity,

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