



ESS President's Report

Welcome back to a very busy beginning to a new school year. We are still dealing with a shortage of staff and new students as well as new staff members. I ask that you read the information that is being sent locally and provincially. This is the only way we can keep members informed and connected. We are all trying our best to answer questions and help members navigate through all the processes.

I want to welcome our new and returning Council and Executive members. These positions are on a volunteer basis and we are grateful and appreciative to have member's involved and willing to help.

ESS Executive – 2023-2024 school year.

President- Liz Tassone

Vice President- Laura Orr

Treasure- Alicia Witiw

Secretary – Jessica Greenlees

Grievance Office- Paul Carlucci

Health and Safety – East Kim Bartlett

Health and Safety – North/ Sault and Central- Michelle McCleave- Kennedy

Equity/Inclusion Officer – TBA

Constitution Officer- Laura Orr/Alicia Witiw

Appointed Council of Representatives Positions

Status of Women Officer- Maria Ellis

Education Service Officer- Josie Nicholson

Communication/Political Action Officers- TBA

Area Representatives

Chapleau- Vacant

Wawa Area Representative- Carrie Belanger

Sault Area Representative- Joanne Lepore

Northshore Area Representative – Bonetta Manktelow

Hornepayne Area Representatives- Vacant

Central Algoma Representative- Vacant

Job Class Representatives

Casual representative- Carrie Belanger

ESS EA Representative- Alicia Witiw

Noon Hour Assistant Representative- Christina Bussineau

Roman Catholic Noon Hour Aide Representative- Vacant

Secretarial Representative- Bonetta Manktelow

We still have positions that are vacant. Marnie put out the notice and if you are considering a position please reach out to us.

Bargaining:

“Pathway to Bargaining”, was indorsed by Presidents and Chief Negotiators on August 25, 2023. A number of town hall meetings across the OSSTF organization were held to facilitate questions and provide additional information. I hope members took the opportunity to ask their questions and express concerns they may have on this process.

This pathway that involves arbitration is a different round of bargaining and it may not be a one size fits all approach. This pathway is being offered to the leadership because the leaders feel it is the best offer for this round of bargaining.

At the end of the day the members have the right to their own opinion and vote the way they feel they should once they hear the information presented to them.

On September 27, 2023 bargaining bulletin went out with the vote results. Members have approved the proposal to resolve bargaining with the Ontario government through a process that could include binding interest arbitration. The vote was conducted from September 8th through September 27th. The proposal was adopted, 78.4% in support of members who voted. Bargaining will continue at the table for both the Teachers/ Occasional Teacher and Education Workers until October 27, 2023. Any outstanding items that have not been settled will be referred to an arbitrator.

Staffing:

Staffing was held on the PD day on June 9, 2023. If you submitted a lateral and there was no position available please remember that the laterals will be kept open until Oct 15. After this date only your first choice lateral will be considered if a position becomes available at the school you have requested. If a position becomes vacant through a resignation or retirement the lateral is kept open and those who submitted a transfer will be informed. At this time you can accept or decline the position.

Updated Information:

If you are not receiving emails from OSSTF please call the office. A change of address, phone number and email should be updated in our system so that members are well informed of any upcoming events or information. Please call the office to update your information. You can reach out to Marnie at 705-759-6653.

OMERS:

Direct Billing of plan member contributions.

OMERS is transitioning to direct billing of plan member contributions. Currently, most plan members make their member contribution for OSSTF Benefits by pay roll deduction through their employer. Effective February 1, 2024, direct billing of plan member contributions, rather than payroll deduction for active plan members, will begin for all remaining and newly eligible teacher and education worker members. Information will be communicated by OTIP to plan members on the process to enroll in PAD authorization prior to the February 1, 2024 transition date.

Please note that contributions for all plan members will be taken on the 10th of each month, beginning on February 10th, 2024.

Please check your employer email or the email you have registered with OTIP to accept communication, notifying you to enroll for Pre- Authorize Debit.

National Day For Truth and Reconciliation

This day was established by the Government of Canada as an opportunity for indigenous and non Indigenous people to learn and reflect on the legacy of residential schools. This day is also a day to support actions aimed at addressing the ongoing discrimination, oppression, and racism against First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples.

We encourage all members to acknowledge and support by wearing orange on September 30th. This day is also about hope for the future and how Indigenous and non Indigenous people can work together to create a better future for all.

AMPA- (Annual Meeting Provincial Assembly)

AMPA for 2024 is scheduled for March 8-11. It is going to be held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel Toronto.

FYI:

Member To Member Issues:

Rights, Legal Obligations and Reporting

A member shall:

- . Avoid interfering in an unwarranted manner between other members and pupils
- . On making an adverse report on another member, furnish that member with a written statement of the report at the earliest possible time and not later than three days after making the report.
- . Prior to registering a complaint of harassment or bullying against another member, inform the members, either personally or through a representative that the actions are unwelcomed and must cease.

Please remember that the obligations regarding collegiality and reporting apply to all OSSTF members.

In Solidarity
Liz Tassone
ESS President

