



District 2, Algoma
OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' BARGAINING UNIT
PRESIDENT'S UPDATES

April 21, 2020

First of all, I am sure many of you are frustrated about what has occurred over the last month or so regarding the Corona virus situation and how that has impacted you as an Occasional Teacher. Be assured your OTBU Executive and the ADSB Administration understand and feel your pain. This is not an easy thing to cope with and we know how important securing casual work is for your livelihood and that of your families. Unfortunately, there are variables that are out of our control. All we can do is follow the advice of our Professionals in Health Care and adjust accordingly.

APPLY FOR EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE & SERB

- That being said, I have been advising Members to apply for EI and SERB programs and hopefully this will provide you with some financial relief. If you are hitting road blocks or long wait times (some members have waited on hold for five hours!), please take the next step and contact Ross Romano and Terry Sheehan. They are our local elected representatives and they need to know what you are experiencing. Make it their reality too!

NOTE:

- If it is an issue with ROEs or other ADSB matters related to your employment, please contact Eunice Poirier (poirice@adsb.on.ca) – she is working from home but will get back to you as soon as humanly possible – she and her Department are doing all they can to keep members paid and payroll flowing...

NEWS RELEASE – OSSTF REACHES TENTATIVE PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION & CROWN – APRIL 20, 2020

- There was a Bulletin sent out to all members outlining what the process will be for ratification of this Agreement. Members need to make sure they can log into the Members' Only Login Page using your Membership number and password...detailed process is outlined in the Bargaining Bulletin to walk you through how to get access to the page so that you can eventually vote on the tentative agreement – estimated to take place in early May – stay tuned
- **Just a reminder:** Your Provincial Executive and Collective Bargaining Team were in a very dreadful position. Two (2) unexpected variables were thrown at them:
 - 1. **Tentative agreements with OECTA, ETFO, AEFO** basically set the parameters for OSSTF negotiations – not a lot of wiggle room since the template was already agreed to by the other education unions

- 2. **Corona Virus** – schools shut down, students needing instruction and course programs, staff and students in quarantine and isolation modes – economy in free fall – millions of Canadians out of work and trying to make ends meet – Boards trying to find ways to deliver technology to students, etc. – the list goes on but I know you know that already
- At this time, presidents and chief negotiators, do not have any specific details of the tentative agreement but the details and process for voting will be rolled out as we proceed down this road.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- I believe, our Provincial Executive and OSSTF Negotiating Team, no matter what the outcome of the vote is, were in a no win situation. – They had to weight the needs of the collective, shelf some of our goals and do the best they could do given those unexpected variables referred to above. It was the most prudent and responsible action possible. We will live to fight another day, but today is not that day!

JOB POSTINGS – A LITTLE GOOD NEWS!

As you are aware there have been very few LTOS hired or postings since Semester 2 began, however, there is some good news. There will be several postings coming out due to contract members going off on Maternity Leaves. Please check your emails daily as the time period for postings and applying has changed

- These postings will be for **THREE (3) DAYS** – NOT the usual five days. This will allow OTS to be hired and into those positions as soon as possible. We have agreed to allow the shortening of timelines to accommodate OTs. The more days you can work the better! Stay tuned! Check your emails daily.

NEW.. POSITIONS

- In addition to those positions noted above, there will be ONE NEW POSTING that will list several positions based on subject expertise and qualifications. **There will be six (6) or possibly seven (7) new positions. Qualifications will be listed for each posted position.**
 - These are entirely **NEW positions** that will be offered to Occasional Teachers following the hiring process as outlined in Regulation 274.
 - However, again the timeline for the Posting will be reduced to three (3) days from five (5), so please be prepared to apply once the postings come out.
 - ADSB will be sending the postings out through their usual method (Apply to Education) AND we will be sending a follow-up email.
 - As for duration of these special assignments, no firm start or end dates have been determined at this time. They are fluid like everything else these days!!

THANK YOU

- I want and need to thank ADSB personnel for creating and offering these positions to our members. ADSB Administrators appreciate the work you do and understand the terrible constraints you are living through at this time.

IN SUMMARY, since we moved into the Corona Virus mode, including quarantine and self-isolation, I want to thank the ADSB for their transparency and willingness to work with all of the education unions to seek input and then determine what the best course of action is for the students and staff in the ADSB.

Secondly, since the week before March break when all HELL broke loose your District and Bargaining Unit Presidents have been actively engaged in addressing issues raised by members, participating in numerous teleconferences with the ADSB as well as OSSTF. We are trying to provide you with the latest and best information possible.

The one thing I want to emphasize is that the first priority on the minds of everyone is for all Members to stay well and safe. Follow the guidelines provided by the Health Units, Board, and governments so that you remain healthy -- both physically and mentally. Reach out to professionals if you need help. There is no shame in asking for help...Everyone needs help from time to time. EAP is available for Members as well as numerous self-help websites that are excellent resources. Take advantage of these resources as needed. We will get through this together!

Please reach out to me or any member of the OTBU Executive as needed. We are (virtually) here for you.

In solidarity,

Sharon Indrevold, OTBU President

sharon.indrevold@d02.osstf.ca

OTBU Executive:

Felicia Pelland, Chief Negotiator; Secretary
Christy Lyons, Vice President; Health & Safety Officer
Kevin Hogan, Treasurer
Michelle Paranuik, Member-at-Large (Leave)

District President: Terri-Lyn Della Penta Email: terilyn.dellapenta@d02.osstf.ca

NOTE:

You can also call our District Office and leave a message at 705-759-6653 or 1-855-265-9980. Marnie picks up the messages on a daily basis. Stay well. Stay safe!!