

The Dispatch



Summer 2011

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On October 6th, VOTE because Education Matters

Included with this newsletter mailing is an ETFO pamphlet on the importance of your participation in the fall Ontario Elections.

ETFO's overall goal is to elect an "education friendly" government. Given the policies of the provincial parties, that means trying to protect the number of current Liberal and NDP seats. As educators, it is in our best interest to elect either a Liberal majority government or a Liberal-NDP minority government.

What can you do?

- Keep checking the ETFO website for new political information to stay informed about the issues.
- Talk to your spouse, parents, siblings, children and friends. If you convinced them all to vote, you'd make a big difference to the election outcome.
- Get a lawn sign. Teachers have credibility. Your neighbours respect you and your opinion.
- Volunteer to work on a candidates campaign this August.
- Vote at the advanced poll, so you'll be available to help get the rest of your family and friends out to vote. On the day of the election you can make reminder phone calls and even offer to drive. Do whatever it takes to get them to cast their vote.

The Provincial Government elected in October will determine your working conditions. Voting isn't just a right – it's a duty.

Employment Insurance Information and Changes to the Teachers Pension Plan

This newsletter package includes two information bulletins.

- **Service Canada** includes the code needed to file for EI this summer as well as Christmas and March break.
- **The Ontario Teachers' Federation** provides information about the increased contribution rate if you are not yet retired, and conditional inflation protection if you retired after 2009.

Should you have further questions— contact these agencies directly. Employment Insurance and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan are not part of your Collective Agreement and therefore outside your Local's authority or expertise.

Reminders

- ◆ **Mid to late — July**
Records of Employment (ROEs) will be available electronically through the Service Canada Website
- ◆ **LTO Posting Dates**
Aug. 18 — Aug. 23
Aug. 26 — Aug. 31
Sept. 6 — Sept. 9
- ◆ **Before Sept.**
Employee Offence Declaration must be completed online
- ◆ **Sept. 6 — First Day of School.** Welcome back.



Closed for the Summer

Effective June 30th, our office will be closed until September 6th.

Please call ETFO Provincial at **416 962-3836** should you need emergency assistance.

Thinking about Upgrading this Summer? We're offering an ETFO \$50 Incentive

Our PD Funding Subsidy has been doubled! See the back of the EI bulletin for complete details.

- Take an A.Q. or Summer Academy Course with ETFO this summer and apply for the \$50 subsidy from our Local (although you won't get a cheque until September).
- If you have taken an A.Q. you should also change your profile on SFE to include your new qualifications. Then, when you start the new school year, you will be more likely to receive job offers you are interested in accepting.

19 More Schools offering Full Day Kindergarten

This September there will be an additional 19 TDSB schools, to bring the total number up to 90, offering full day kindergarten. New to the list are: Buchanan, Burrows Hall, Cedarbrook, Chalkfarm, Charles E. Webster, Driftwood, Galloway Road, Gosford, Heritage Park, Ionview, J. R. Wilcox, John G. Diefenbaker, Knob Hill, Pauline, Queen Victoria, Sprucecourt, St. Margaret's, Timberbank, and Walter Perry.

If you are interested in working in these classrooms, you should consider expanding your profile in SmartFindExpress to include these schools.

Tell Us the LTOs You Have Applied for, Include the Posting

We need to make sure that all of our members are given fair consideration. The only way we can do this is with your help. We are asking that you do the following when applying for posted long term positions which start this Fall:

- ♦ Apply directly to the school in accordance with the Board's application procedures;
- ♦ Email our Local at: generaldelivery@ica.net. In the subject line, type only the LTO posting number. In the body of the email, just tell us the date you applied for this job.

Message from your President:

Dear Colleagues,

This has been a very busy year. Our Local hosted 48 professional development workshops, 17 social outings, 10 equity/social justice events, 3 new member welcome evenings and 3 general meetings. We plan to continue offering you opportunities to grow professionally and connect with your fellow members again—starting in September.

In addition we will be ramping up for the Collective Bargaining process. You may have received a letter this May asking you to send a non-TDSB email to sabrinaramnanan@ica.net so she can add you to our data base. If you didn't get around to responding, we'd still be happy to hear from you now.

If we already had your email address, we emailed you a Collective Bargaining Survey through *Survey Monkey* in June. Again, if you didn't have a chance to fill it out, there's still time.

We can look forward to a 3% pay increase for both daily and LTO pay when we return this fall which will help 'soften the pinch' of our increased pension contribution starting January 1st.

Wishing you a safe and restful summer.

Yours in Federation,

Marion

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