

OSSTF - DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZED THOUGHTS

A Message from the District President Iggi van Kooten



I sincerely want to thank everyone who took the time to participate in our recent Local Bargaining survey. Your feedback is invaluable and plays a critical role in guiding our decisions and shaping the future direction of our work.

I also want to warmly welcome Shannon Kuypers as she steps into her new leadership role within the organization as the District 15 Federation Officer. We are excited to have her expertise, energy, and vision contribute to our continued growth and success.

Finally, please look out for important information regarding our upcoming Executive Elections, which we will share by the end of the month through the info@osstfd15.net email address.

Upcoming Dates

February 12 **BUC meeting**
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Virtual

February 27 **Support request for leave or transfer**

March 6-7 **Pre-AMPA**

March 13-16 **AMPA**
Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly

March 23 **DEADLINE for leaves and transfers**

April 9 **OTIP Retirement Workshop**
*Peterborough

April 9 **BUC meeting**
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Minden

April 9 **OTIP Retirement Workshop**
*Lindsay

April 22 **OTIP Retirement Workshop**
*Barrie

April 28 **Workers' Mourning Day**

May 12 **BUC meeting**
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Virtual

May 16 **AGM**
(Annual General Meeting)
*Location TBD

June 12 **BUC meeting**
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Minden

PD Fund

Apply by May 15, 2026

DO YOU KNOW?
Click Here For Information
The importance of reading your collective agreement?

L12.08 Special Leave of Absence

L12.08.1 ~ A member may request an unpaid leave of absence of one (1) to six (6) consecutive semesters. Any request for such leave shall be submitted in writing to the Director or designate by March 15* in the academic year preceding that in which the leave is to commence, with a copy to the Bargaining Unit President and the Principal. This deadline may be waived by the Employer.

L12.09 Self-Funded Leave Plan

L12.09.1 ~ This plan has been developed to afford members the opportunity of taking a 1 year or 1 semester leave of absence with pay, by spreading salary over a longer period of time (example: 4 years' salary over 5 years or 3 semesters' salary over 4 semesters).

The maximum period for a self-funded leave plan shall be 6 years.

The minimum period is 2 semesters' salary over 3 semesters.

L12.09.3 Application Process

a. Application shall be made, in writing, to the Director or designate on or before the Monday after the March Break, with a copy to the Bargaining Unit President and the Principal.

b. Written acceptance or denial of the member's request, with explanation, shall be forwarded to the member by April 15. An individual Self-Funded Leave Agreement shall be completed by June 30.

*ADJUSTED DEADLINE DUE TO MARCH BREAK -> NOW MARCH 23rd, 2026

Instagram:@OSSTFd15 Facebook:@OSSTFd15

Accessing Personal Leave

CLICK HERE

We're looking for your feedback about your experience accessing Personal/Compassionate leave for the current school year. Please complete the above survey.

November Winners

Angela West - IEWSS
Meredith March - FFSS
Alicia Lloyd ~ BMLSS



Health and Safety Training

Safer Workplaces Start with You - Get Your Free Training Today!

Whether you're an employer, supervisor, worker, or safety professional in Ontario, workplace safety is everyone's responsibility. From now until March 31, 2026, WSPS is offering select eCourses completely free to help you build a safer, more compliant work environment - without added costs.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A LIST OF eCOURSES.

COMPLETE A COURSE BY APRIL 30th AND FILL OUT THE FORM for a chance to win a \$20 Tim Horton's Gift Card!



CLICK HERE

The OTIP Education Worker Awards are now open for nominations!

The OTIP Education Worker Awards seek to recognize and acknowledge the important role that education workers play in our school communities and to student success.

2026 OTIP Education Worker Awards - Deadline March 31, 2026

Provincial OSSTF All-Member Memos

D/BU MEMO TITLE	#
<u>New Eligibility for Canada Student Loan Forgiveness</u>	93
<u>Application to Provincial Standing Committees and Councils</u>	90
<u>OTF/FEO Special Recognition Award</u>	102

Click Here For Information

To access D/BU Memos Visit www.osstf.on.ca

LOGIN

DATES

January and February

Ontario Regulation 521/01: The Collection of Personal Information

The education sector is seeing more changes implemented from the current government within the Education Act Regulation 521/01: Collection of Personal Information.

What does this mean for you?

Additional employee reporting requirements through a more frequent **Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)**.

Per the regulatory change, all members will be required to submit a VSC document every five years at their own cost. You will receive an email from TLDSB Police Records Check (police.check@tlds.on.ca) with further instructions.

Important: Teachers on a leave of absence must meet these requirements and stated deadlines.

Greetings from your New Federation Officer



Hello District 15! My name is Shannon Kuypers and I am now serving as your District 15 T/OT Federation Officer, District Grievance Officer, Health & Safety Officer, and Chief Negotiator.

I am excited to support and advocate for our members in this new role.

Please see the email sent on February 6th with my contact