

OSSTF - DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZED THOUGHTS

A Message from the District President Iggi van Kooten



March Break is almost upon us! On behalf of the Executive, thank you for the work you continue to do to support one another and our profession. We wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable March Break.

A few important dates are coming up:

- 1) Special Leave of absence under L12.08 of the collective agreement must be submitted to the board no later than March 23rd (adjusted to March 23rd due to March Break).
- 2) Self-Funded Leave and Voluntary transfer requests are due the Monday immediately following March Break (March 23rd)

****All these requests should be emailed from your board email address to: shiela.black@tlds.on.ca and cc'd to myself and your principal. ****

Elections

On February 28th an email was sent to members from the info@osstfd15.net account about the upcoming elections:

In accordance with Article VIII - Election and Appointment of Officers, in even numbered years, the Bargaining Unit shall hold elections for the Bargaining Unit Executive.

The email shall serve notice under By-Law 10 of the upcoming elections for Bargaining Unit Executive.

President - election to be held in accordance with By-Law 10, to be released full time.

The following executive members of the Bargaining Unit shall be elected at the meeting of the Bargaining Unit Assembly in even numbered years:

- two Vice Presidents
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Equity, Anti-Racism & Oppression Officer

Timelines for nominations are as follows:

On-time nominations for all positions are due no later than Friday, March 25, 2026 at 4 pm (49 calendar days prior to May 14, 2026).



Please complete the form found within the email that was sent February 28th for your nomination.

Upcoming Dates

March
6-7 Pre-AMPA

March
13-16 AMPA
Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly

March
16-20 March Break

March
23 DEADLINE for leaves and transfers

April
8 OTIP Retirement Workshop
*Peterborough

April
9 BUC meeting
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Minden

April
9 OTIP Retirement Workshop
*Lindsay

April
30 OTIP Retirement Workshop
*Bracebridge

April
28 Workers' Mourning Day

May
12 BUC meeting
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Virtual

May
14 AGM
(Annual General Meeting)
*Location TBD

June
12 BUC meeting
(Bargaining Unit Council)
*Minden



Apply by May 15, 2026

Lunch & Learn – SURVEY!

CLICK HERE

Are you interested in a FREE lunch and learn from Educators Financial Group? Fill out the survey to help us gauge interest and be entered into the March draw.

February Winner

Laura Goltz BMLSS



Health and Safety Training – Still Available!

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	#
Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges in Education	118

Click Here For Information

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

LOGIN

DATES

March

Planning to Retire in the 2025–26 School Year?

If you plan to retire during the 2025-2026 school year, it is important to let the employer and the District 15 Office know. **Formally notifying the Board prior to March 31, 2025** may prevent some members from being declared surplus or redundant.

Additionally, there is an option to terminate LTD coverage and the associated premium costs in some cases. Information is on the D15 website.

In addition to the April retirement workshops, District 15 has a package of retirement information available – please let us know how we can help.

Ontario Regulation 521/01: The Collection of Personal Information

Recently the Ontario government made public there are new 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. A criminal reference check DOES NOT fulfill this requirement.

You will receive an email from TLDSB Police Records Check (police.check@tlds.on.ca) with further instructions. We recommend completing your VSC when you receive your notice.

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