

4Shadow

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district4@osstf.ca

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www.d4osstf.ca

D4 TBU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GLEN HODGSON

Permanent e-learning will lead to privatization

It is hardly surprising that the government has started to muse about making e-learning permanent, even when things get back to normal. I believe this was their plan all along and I also believe that this is the first step towards privatizing public education.

Let me be perfectly clear right from the beginning of my message that the E-school in the Near North has been running reasonably well mainly because of the incredible amount of work and dedication from OSSTF members. Our e-school teachers have been creative, dedicated, and dynamic and we can't take anything away from those efforts.

But let's also be perfectly clear that the e-school was a need that was created in response to a global pandemic. It is very difficult to teach on-line and for a large majority of students, it does not provide a better option than in-school learning. It is also very difficult for the teachers to offer comparable programming to a virtual audience and being on-line all day, every day is quite frankly exhausting.

In addition, make no mistake about it, the goal of the Ford government is not to provide a better educational system. Rather, it is to commodify public education so that it can be sold off to the highest bidder. It will definitely cost jobs and result in less course offerings at our schools and will certainly impact the ability of small and rural schools to remain open and viable.

It is also frustrating that the Ford government is taking advantage of a pandemic to further their plan of destroying public education. This was clearly their intention pre-pandemic, but they did not anticipate the strong and cohesive fight back they encountered from education workers, parents and the students. It is shameful that they have now taken advantage of COVID to sneak in an agenda that was so soundly rejected just over a year earlier.

It is also so hypocritical to watch the Minister talk openly about the need to ease restrictions and get students back in class (despite not lowering class sizes or improving ventilation etc) and then announce more future e-learning. This government is so inconsistent in their messaging that it is a wonder that anyone believes a word they say.

So, even though we are all exhausted, we need to continue to have conversation whenever possible to help educate those who do not understand where this government is heading and what the implications will be.

I am also calling on all our education partners, INCLUDING school boards to stand up and defend our system and support the values of public education and the whole school experience. There is a time and place for e-learning but, in a non-pandemic year, it should be to support in-person learning, not attempt to replace it.

And it needs to be provided by qualified, experienced, and dedicated Ontario education workers.

Glen

UPCOMING

D4 TBU/OTBU Exec
GoToMeeting
Wednesday, April 21st
from 4 to 6:30

D4 AGM
May, 20th 6pm
GoToMeeting

Click image below to access the Provincial OSSTF Website.



Celebrating 100 Years
as a Leader in Education



IN THE NEWS

[Virtual school can be damaging to children's mental health, CDC study says](#) (CNN, March 26th)

[Ontario education minister says decision coming in next few weeks whether remote learning will become permanent](#) (CTV News, March 25th)

[Manitoba government plans to eliminate elected school boards in major overhaul of education](#) (CBC News, March 15th)

[PC MPP to speak at event organized by group that compares abortion to the Holocaust](#) (CP24, March 15th) That MPP would be Sam Oosterhoff, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education.

[Online school will still be around post-pandemic, so what have we learned?](#) (CBC News, March 15th)

UPDATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AMPA

Well AMPA came and went, the process to complete the business of the House was a struggle. As a result, the Assembly was not able to cover all that was needed. OSSTF is looking to set up a second AMPA meeting to complete unfinished work.

Do you want to know more about this past AMPA? AHSS folks can touch base with Sarah. Northern folks can touch base with Dan. Others can call Brent, Jake or Glen.

Unfortunately, Parker was not successful in his run for an Executive Officer position. On the bright side, we will be getting Parker back in D4 starting in September. Karen Littlewood won her election and will serve as our next provincial president.

D4 OSSTF AGM

The District 4 and TBU/OTBU annual general meeting is coming up in May. Watch for notices and more details in April.

Ontario Federation of Labour Hosting Education Assembly

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), along with many education unions including OSSTF/FEESO, is hosting an Education Assembly to bring workers, parents, students, community activists and others together in one forum.

The goal is to educate, inspire and activate as an entire community to protect public education from child care to post-secondary. The event is on Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Please see the brief event description and registration information via the link below:

[Education Assembly Link](#)

OECTA Pink Listing (Halton Elementary)

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) is requesting that the attached Pink Listing of the Halton Catholic District School Board be circulated to our local leaders and members. Members are asked to respect and support these sanctions in solidarity with OECTA.

April Break

At print time, the government is considering another move of the winter break. An announcement is set for Friday April 2nd.

Provincial OSSTF has been releasing information/updates/statements as 'Covid-19 Updates' and as 'Reopening of Schools Reports'.

There have been 5 'Reopening of Schools' issued to date. [Click here to access those.](#)

There have been 21 'Covid-19 Updates'. They are found on the provincial website in your secure 'MyOSSTF' section. [Click here to reach the login page.](#)

ONTARIO'S VACCINE ROLLOUT

Ontario is scheduled at the start of April to head into phase 2 of the vaccine rollout plan. Phase 2 is scheduled from April to July. Listed among the essential frontline workers for the vaccine in phase 2 are elementary and secondary school staff. The list of worker groups eligible in phase 2 is extensive, there are over 30 different groups on the list.

The government has prioritized individuals between phase 1, 2, and 3. There is also prioritizing within phase 2. For example, 3 of the groups in phase 2 are police, fire fighters, and financial service workers. One of these groups will be ahead of the other. Considering the job description for each group, does it make sense that police and fire fighters would be ahead of financial service workers? There is also geographical criteria that gives priority to areas where transmission, hospitalization, and death rates are high. This criteria suggests that Toronto and the GTA might be prioritized over the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit region. There is also criteria outlining priority for Black and racialized populations.

The people and places being hit hardest, and people who are most vulnerable are some of the criteria used to determine priority within phase 2.

Who developed this plan? Provincial OSSTF would have done their best to work with Government in the development of the Phased plan. Provincial OSSTF has continued dialogue on the broader level during the rollout process. As you are aware, the relationship between OSSTF and the Government is not a good one and our input often falls on people unwilling to hear us.

While D4 TBU has been in contact with the HU to seek clarification and understanding about the rollout, we are not engaged in any discussions to affect the rollout. The rollout framework within phase 2 is decided upon by the Government and the Health Units within the province. D4 TBU is not part of the decision making process, therefore the Health Unit is your best source for answers on the rollout.

The criteria and many variables (supply issues, people power issues, etc.), associated with the rollout can create many questions for members. To understand the timelines and rollout process in your area, it is best to contact the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit. We hope that members know that the vaccine is NOT mandatory.

Local Link [North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit](#)

Local Link [Health Unit vaccination plan \(dates, locations, other details related to the local rollout\)](#)

Government Link [Phase 2 Prioritization](#)

Government Link [Government Vaccination Plan Phases 1-3](#)

Government Link [‘How to book a vaccine’](#)

Government Link [‘When you can get a vaccine’](#)

Government Link [‘How are we prioritizing vaccinations’](#)

D4 TBU is seeking to provide information only. The choice is yours.

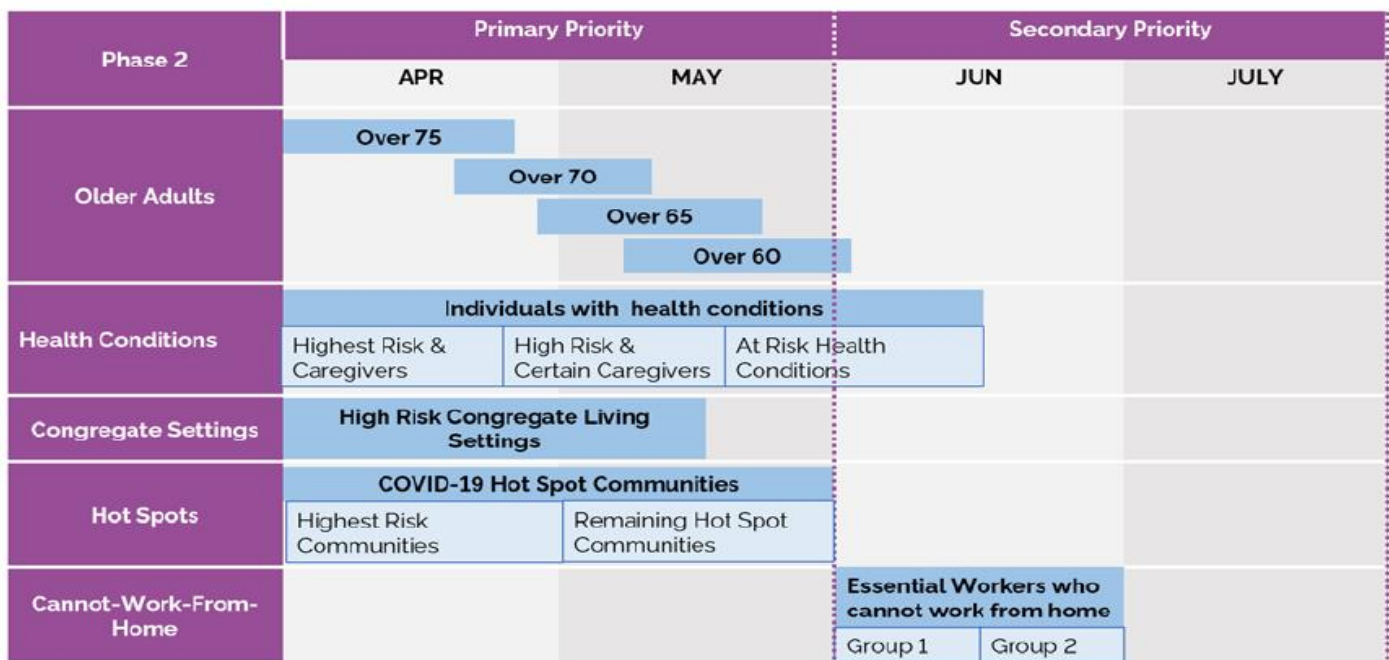
ONTARIO'S VACCINE ROLLOUT

Last minute update resulting from TBU exec discussions with the HU and the board.

- * The vaccines being supplied to our HU are Pfizer and Moderna. If the vaccine type changes, requests for a specific vaccine are not taken. The individual must either accept or not accept the vaccine being offered.
- * The 'Hot Spot' criteria might see Ed. works in the GTA and/or Golden Horseshoe be vaccinated ahead of the June timeline.
- * The board has been invited to share this type of information with employees.

The chart below is from the from Government [Phase 2 Prioritization document](#). Education workers are in Group 1.

Figure 1: Projected Timing of Phase 2 Sequence



All timelines subject to vaccine supply availability

ONTARIO TEACHERS INSURANCE PLAN (OTIP)

Staycation ideas for April break 2021

With continued restrictions in place on travel and social gatherings, many Canadians are looking for ways to make the most of their April break while keeping themselves and their communities safe. We've rounded up a list of eight staycation ideas that you can safely do together at home this spring break.



Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article108.

RETIREMENT PAGE

Ontario Teacher Pension Plan - OTTP

Ontario Teacher Pension Plan retirement workshops provide the opportunity for members to understand what their retirement income will look like. It will also provide opportunities to discuss investment options.

We encourage members, especially those with 10 years or less remaining, to attend these workshops in order to properly prepare for the transition to retirement. Workshop Dates and Links are below.

1) Thursday, April 8th from 4:30 to 5:45 pm

[Click here for the registration link to this date.](#)

2) Tuesday, May 4th from 7 to 8:15 pm

[Click here for the registration link to this date.](#)

3) Thursday, May 27th from 5:00 to 6:15 pm

[Click here for the registration link to this date.](#)

**Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan - OTIP**

Retiring in the next five years?

Join us for a free retirement planning webinar! Benefits of our retirement webinars:

- Open to all members of the Ontario education community.
- Learn about your retirement health, dental and travel insurance options and how to easily make the transition.
- Evening and weekend sessions available – choose the time that works best for you!
- Select sessions also include pension and financial planning information.

[Visit by clicking here to access the registration page.](#)

ONTARIO TEACHERS INSURANCE PLAN (OTIP)

What to look for when buying a car seat

Keeping your child safe while driving is extremely important. A car seat or booster seat is a crucial piece of safety equipment that, when used correctly, greatly reduces the risk of injury or death in the event of a collision. Read on for frequently asked questions about purchasing a car seat to learn what to look for to best protect your child while in the car.



Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article109.

READER CONTEST

Last month's trivia question: Name one of the D4 TBU delegates going attending AMPA.

Answer: Glen H, Dave W, Sarah M, Dan S were our D4 TBU delegates

Winner: Dan Coutu

This month's trivia question: List a work group from phase 2 that is eligible for the vaccine? Any groups mentioned in this 4Shadow cannot be used as an answer. You'll have to check out the Government site.

This month's prize: A jar of D4 honey.

Email your answer to district4@osstf.ca *Executive members and their families are ineligible.*



FUNNIES



OSSTF TBU/OTBU District 4 Executive 2020-21

Glen Hodgson - President
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Christina Rheault - Treasurer
Michelle Graham - Secretary
Dave Warda - PE Liaison

Lamia Sabbagh - Prov. Staff Liaison
Sarah McLaren - AHSS rep
Jesse Gregoris - CSS rep
Bryan Elsey - FJM rep
Dan Stevens - NSS rep
Dan Gray - PSHS rep
Mark Robertson - WFSS rep
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APPENDIX A - LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES AS OUTLINED IN THE NEW LOCAL CONTRACT

DATE	EVENT	ARTICLE REFERENCE
by Oct 31	Seniority list emailed to teachers	L14.03.04
by Nov 1	Staffing/workload reports provided to the Bargaining Unit President	L13.04
by Nov 30	Possible seniority list errors reported	L14.03.04
by Dec 15	Revised seniority list emailed to teachers and Bargaining Unit President	L14.03.04
by Mar 1	Deferred Salary Leave Plan requests submitted	L18.01.02
by Mar 1	Notification to extend an Unpaid Leave must be provided	L18.03.02
by Mar 1 (of preceding year)	Requests for Second Semester Leave with Benefits Paid submitted	L18.04.02
15 days later	Board provides response to Requests for Second Semester Leave with Benefits Paid	L18.04.03
by Mar 31	Requests for Transfer must be submitted	L14.07.02
by Apr 1	Staffing/Workload reports provided to the Bargaining Unit President	L13.04
by Apr 15	Board declares number of teachers deemed redundant or surplus to the Bargaining Unit President	L13.04.04
by May 1	Notification of teachers declared redundant in person and in writing. Bargaining Unit President also notified	L14.04.07
by May 15	Vacancies in schools open to applications: Round 1: Permanent teachers only, qualified and most senior Round 2: Permanent and Surplus teachers, qualified and most senior	L14.05.02
by May 15	Deferred Salary Leave Plan acceptance, denial, or suggested modifications provided	L18.01.03
by May 31	Unassigned surplus teachers assigned to schools in their region where possible	L14.05.03

APPENDIX B - ACRONYMS WE USE

AGM.....	Annual General Meeting
AMPA.....	Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (OSSTF provincial AGM)
BU.....	Bargaining Unit
CA.....	Collective Agreement
CLC.....	Canadian Labour Congress
CUPE.....	Canadian Union of Public Employees
DBU.....	District Bargaining Unit
DSLTP.....	Deferred Salary Leave Plan
EA.....	Educational Assistant
EAP.....	Employee Assist Program
ECE.....	Early Childhood Educator
EFG.....	Educators Financial Group
ESSP.....	Educational Student Support Personnel
ETFO.....	Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario
H/S.....	Health and Safety
LTD.....	Long-Term Disability
LTO.....	Long-Term Occasional
MOL.....	Ministry of Labour
MSJHCC.....	Multi Site Joint Health and Safety Committee
OECTA.....	Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association
OFL.....	Ontario Federation of Labour
OLRB.....	Ontario Labour Relations Board
OPSBA.....	Ontario Public School Boards' Association
OPSEU.....	Ontario Public Service Employees Union
OSSTF.....	Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation
OTBU.....	Occasional Teacher's Bargaining Unit
OTIP.....	Ontario Teacher's Insurance Plan
OTPP.....	Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan
PSSP.....	Professional Student Support Personnel
TBU.....	Teacher's Bargaining Unit

Is there an acronym you would like to see on the list? Email district4@osstf.ca with your request. They can't all be on this list.