

4Shadow

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www.d4osstf.ca

D4 TBU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GLEN HODGSON

March Break delay shows once again that Lecce just doesn't get it

Once again (I know this is not surprising) our Provincial government has made a short-sighted decision while ignoring educational unions, school boards and administrators. If they had asked, we would have told the Minister that the March Break was important for our collective well being in that our teachers, support staff, administrators and students desperately need a break.

If you look at the revised calendar, you will see virtually no time off (except for family day weekend) from January until April. That is a span of over three months during some of the coldest and darkest days of winter. There is a reason why March Break is planned to fall when it does, and it is tied to the need for our schools to have a reprieve during this mentally exhausting stretch.

Yet the government went ahead and moved the break, ignoring the mental health of students, parents, and workers alike with another top-down decision while managing to belittle education workers in the process.

This is from a government that forced students back to class during a pandemic on the basis that mental health of kids trumped the risk that in-person learning would pose. Now the risk of the virus is suddenly more important. What??????

This inconsistency can be added to an ever-growing list of hypocrisies tied to the current government. They force mandatory e-learning but then talk about the importance of kids being in-school in front of

educators. They talk about keeping students safe, then ignore several recommendations of the Sick Kids report and withhold funds earmarked for to improve the school environment. They talk about mental health and then delay the March Break at a time when staff and students are already on edge.

The list goes on and on and the refusal to consult with workers on the front line is inexcusable. It is so obvious that the Ford government and Stephen Lecce have no plan for managing this pandemic and are happy to download responsibility for taking care of our students while tying our hands by only following the health and safety recommendations that are convenient for them and their agenda.

The need for members to take care of their mental health has never been greater.

In that light OSSTF will be joining with ETFO to provide some voluntary opportunities for our members to attend a broad selection of workshops that focus on mental health. They are designed to be accessed safely from home and the activities can be practiced from home by individuals and will hopefully provide outlets and activities to lift the spirit and promote a healthier lifestyle.

I know this certainly won't make everything right, but it might be just the thing that some of you need right now to help get through the next few weeks. We tried to think of a wide range of activities that would hopefully appeal to many members.

And remember, spring is just around the corner.

Glen

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UPCOMING

AMPA
Saturday, March 13-15th
Virtual

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

Click image below to access the Provincial OSSTF Website.



Celebrating 100 Years
as a Leader in Education



IN THE NEWS

[New COVID-19 modelling to be released today amid recent rise in case counts](#) (CP24, Feb 25)

[Ontario won't launch COVID-19 vaccination booking system until March 15](#) (The Globe and Mail, Feb 24)

[Ontario is expanding asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in schools. Here's what you need to know](#) (CBC News, Feb 23)

[Ontario education minister accused of scrubbing social media of critical comments](#) (Global News, Feb 15)

UPDATES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AMPA

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly is set for March 13-15th. This is an election year at AMPA and as you may know, Parker Robinson is running for Provincial Executive. His campaign team has been busy working Facebook, Twitter, emails, and other social media platforms to sharing the good things that Parker brings to the table.

Harvey Bishoff, our current Provincial President will not be running for re-election. At this time, Karen Littlewood and Muna Kadri have announced their candidacy for the position of Provincial President.

[Click here for a list of all the candidates along with information about the candidate.](#)

The delegates for this year are Glen Hodgson, Sarah McLaren, Dan Stevens, and Dave Weichel.

March Break

As you are aware, the Government has moved the break in March to the week of April 12th - 16. A great deal of concern has been raised in regard to this decision, the government is not interested in listening. This is not a contractual issue, other than making our concerns heard, there is very little that the affiliates can do about the move.

New Covid-19 Screening Protocols

Since September there has been ongoing discussion about the application of the quarantine language in the contract.

As soon as the government announced stricter Covid screening protocols, we began discussions with the board about the application of quarantine language to the new protocols.

Given that discussions have just occurred, it is best at this time to speak to your admin to find out how quarantine language will be applied to the new Covid guidelines.

Important Dates

If you haven't looked at this chart in previous 4Shadows, now is a good time. Please take a look at Appendix A to check over the important dates as set in the contract.

T2200 Tax Forms

The board should be clarifying their policy on issuing this form. If this is a form you need, please make a request of the board. If for some reason they do not issue the form, there is not much OSSTF can do. You can call the Canadian Revenue Agency to see how you should proceed.

COVID-19
UPDATES



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.](#)

FROM QUEEN'S PARK

PREMIER FORD ACCUSED OF MISOGYNY

During a heated exchange in Question Period, NDP leader Andrea Horwath continued to press Premier Ford on his government's response to COVID-19. In response Ford [said](#), "Rather than sending inaccurate information out to the public and hurting the public, why don't you come and join us to support the people of Ontario for once, rather than just sit there and criticize and criticize? It's like listening to nails on a chalkboard, listening to you." Horwath [replied](#), "Speaker, this Premier always goes to the worst, worst places when he doesn't like the questions that the opposition is asking. But we're going to keep asking them on behalf of Ontarians, on behalf of the people of this province." [Commentators](#) quickly pounced on Ford's words and accused him of misogyny and demanded that he apologize. At this point, the [Premier has yet to apologize](#)

EDUCATION MINISTER SCRUBBING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Education Minister Stephen Lecce was accused of [scrubbing critical comments](#) from students on his social media account. Students complained that the Education Minister was not listening to their voices despite his constant references to defending and promoting student interests during the pandemic.

[BILL 249, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER ACT \(CUTTING MPP SALARIES TO CERB EQUIVALENT\)](#)

Independent MPP Roman Baber (York Center) introduced this bill to reduce the salary of all members of the Legislative Assembly to \$500 per week (the equivalent of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit) until all emergency orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, except those orders relating to hospitals and long-term care homes, are revoked. Baber, who was expelled from the PC caucus in December for challenging the government's lockdown measures, saw his efforts to fast-track his bill denied. In fact, the government's house leader, Paul Calandra (Markham—Stouffville), introduced his own motion to lower Baber's pay alone to \$500 per week. The motion passed but was ruled out of order by the Speaker as it contravened the Legislature's policies.

[BILL 239, STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK ACT](#)

NDP MPP Peggy Sattler's (London West) bill would grant employees 10 days of sick leave, seven of which would be paid leave. In addition, Sattler's bill mandates another 14 days of paid leave in the case of declared emergencies or infectious disease emergencies. Despite support from the Liberals and Greens, the NDP motions failed as the PC government continued to insist that they were taking adequate measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

ONTARIO TEACHERS INSURANCE PLAN (OTIP)

Buying a car? Why your insurance provider should be the first person you tell

Whether you are driving a shiny new car off the lot or found a used car in good shape on an auto buy-and-sell page, you'll need to notify your insurer before you write the cheque. The make, model and year of your vehicle are key factors in determining your auto insurance policy premiums and ensuring that you have the right amount of coverage in place. That's why it's so important to contact your insurance provider before you purchase a new vehicle. Depending on the

make, model and year of your new vehicle, keeping your insurer updated could save you on your insurance premiums.



Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article102.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

Since 1911, International Women's Day has delivered a call to action for gender parity across the globe. Now celebrated annually on March 8, International Women's Day is also a time to stand up and recognize the vital contributions women make in every aspect of society.

Covid-19 has brought the economic and domestic struggles women face into sharp focus, while at the same time underscoring the essential value of their roles. This is abundantly clear in the workforce, where primarily female frontline workers face increasingly unsafe working conditions with limited access to paid sick leave and child care.

In response to the pandemic burden on women, the UN's 2021 International Women's Day theme is: "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." Highlighting the necessity of women's voices in a post-pandemic world, this year's theme calls on women leaders to stand up and be a part of important decision-making processes. Having women at the table will be vital as we create new policies and programs during our covid-19 recovery.



Despite the struggles of the past year, the pandemic has given us the opportunity to create real change. On March 8, we must come together (even if it's virtually) to continue our global fight for women's equality and our full participation within society.

How to Celebrate International Women's Day 2021:

- 1) Email your local MP demanding pay equity for women.
- 2) Create social media posts that promote women's issues using the hashtags:
#InternationalWomensDay
#IWD2021
#ChoosetoChallenge
- 3) Attend socially distanced/virtual IWD event/marches in your local community.
- 4) Support organizations and female politicians that advance women's causes.

RETIREMENT PAGE

Ontario Teacher Pension Plan - OTPP

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.](#)

OTIP

How a dash cam can help you save on car insurance

Are you among the one in ten Canadian drivers who has a dash cam installed in their car? As car safety technology continues to advance and more gadgets become available, dash cams are becoming an increasingly popular topic of conversation. With the average retail price upwards of \$100, many drivers are wondering if installing a dash cam is worth it.



Learn more at www.otipinsurance.com/article103.

READER CONTEST

Last month's trivia question: What Provincial OSSTF executive position is Parker Robinson running for?

Answer: Provincial Executive Officer

Winner: Dan Coutu

This month's trivia question: Name one of the D4 delegates going to AMPA.

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

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



FUNNIES

What we need to get us to the April break.



What we need to do when it finally gets here.



OSSTF TBU/OTBU District 4 Executive 2020-21

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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

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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.