



D4shadow

OSSTF/FEESO District 4
Monthly Newsletter



OSSTF/FEESO

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation

DISTRICT 4  Near North

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 16th

Canadore College Parry Sound Campus

Dinner at 5:30 PM

District Meeting at 6:00 PM

**Bargaining Unit Meetings to
Follow After the District Meeting**

**To reserve a meal, email your RSVP to Jake Loof at
Southvp-teachers@d04.osstf.ca by May 10th**

**Please share your dietary concerns in your RSVP
If you know that you will be carpooling to the event,
please also indicate this in your RSVP.**

Note: we do not have childcare, but we will cover your costs.

Nomination forms for Executive positions can be found on the
district website www.d4osstf.ca

Mileage will be paid to those traveling from outside Parry Sound.

PLEASE CARPOOL -There will be a special door prize for Carpool Drivers.
Each Carpool Passenger will receive a \$10 Tim Hortons Gift Card.

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May 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 1	—	School Principal Day
May 14	—	Children and Youth in Care Day
May 16	—	Annual General Meeting
May 22	—	Victoria Day



President's Message

Parker Robinson



As we enter the month of May and the home stretch of the 2022-23 school year the staffing process for the next school year is unfolding. While the news is generally good overall with no redundancies announced, it is very important to remember that some of our members are negatively impacted by changes to staffing levels at various worksites. Surplus status means the impacted members will potentially be moving to new schools. Please be mindful of the uncertainty this time of year brings to some of the membership. The various changes that will occur impact both the individual members and the school communities.

I continue to field questions about the lack of progress at the bargaining table. Our provincial leadership has been hearing these same concerns from both the general membership and local leaders. People may be aware of recent settlements, both in the education sector (CUPE, L.A. Teacher's Union) and the broader economy (PSAC), that appear to help OSSTF's positioning on several issues. This may be true, but it is important to recognize that most of the gains made by unions recently have come only after the negotiating environment was pressurized by job action. The aggressive and adversarial approach that has been taken by the Ford government not only suggests it may be necessary to take job action. They are not only resistant to appropriate compensation for education workers, but their goal appears to be to undermine the public education system and find ways to privatize education in Ontario. Locally, the executive recently asked members to complete a survey regarding their willingness to participate in job action. We had excellent participation and informative feedback from the results and have shared this information with OSSTF provincial. It appears people are recognizing the need potential job action. While I do not anticipate any disruption to this school year, it is very possible that the 2023-24 school will see OSSTF take steps to force the government to participate in the bargaining process in a substantive way. Individual members should begin to plan accordingly for this possibility. Of course, no job action will occur without the various steps that are required to get a mandate from the membership (strike votes, etc.). Members will be provided with the necessary information to make an informed decision regarding job action.

I encourage members to attend this year's AGM in Parry Sound. This is an opportunity to participate in your union and hear from local leaders and the provincial executive. There are elections occurring for both the district and bargaining unit, as well as several motions updating our constitution and bylaws. The AGM is on Tuesday, May 16th at the Canadore College campus in Parry Sound. If you wish to guarantee a meal, please RSVP Jake Loof at southvp-teachers@d04.osstf.ca by May 10th.

Yours in federation,

Parker

Click Icons to link to obtain provincial information such as DBUs, updates and much more!



[May 15, 2023 4:30 PM \(Virtual\)](#)

[May 15, 2023 4:30 PM \(In person\)](#)

[June 5, 2023 4:30 PM \(Virtual\)](#)

Pension Information

Register for Webinars or Workshops by clicking the date and time for the available sessions. All sessions are typically 75 to 90 minutes long.



[May 18, 2023 4:30 PM](#)

[May 25, 2023 12:00 PM](#)

[May 25, 2023 5:30 PM](#)



Our D4: OT/T Bargaining Unit 2022-2023 Executive

NOTE: QR Codes are scannable for Vcard contact information and can be stored in your contacts on your mobile device.

Android Devices: Use Google Lens. Apple Devices: use Camera App.



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IN THE NEWS

[Ontario education minister wants teachers to accept private mediation](#)

[Ontario shouldn't be too quick to get rid of empty schools. It should try to fill them first](#)

[Doug Ford government sets sights on Ontario's school system](#)

[Stephen Lecce says 1,000 extra teaching positions will help kids struggling with early reading, math](#)

[Public Servants Forced Federal Government to Improve Deal By Going on Strike, Labour Experts Say](#)

[Writers are finding ways to revive the endangered art of handwriting](#)



Information Updates

The Toronto Blue Jays OSSTF/FEESO Member Special Offer (2023)

The Toronto Blue Jays are running a special offer on tickets for teachers and education workers.

Please click on the direct link found below to purchase 30% off tickets in select 100 Level, 200 Level and 500 Level seats. Once there, please click the 'Buy Tickets' button to have the 30% special offer rate applied to your purchase.

[Teachers and Education Workers Special Offer | Tickets | Toronto Blue Jays \(mlb.com\)](#)

This discount is valid for select games starting today until June 30, 2023, up to 8 tickets per game. This offer is subject to seat availability.

For groups of 9+, please contact Noah Blackwell at noah.blackwell@bluejays.com or 416-341-3904.

Should you have further questions, please contact Jennifer Seif, (Jennifer.Seif@osstf.ca).

EQAO Surveys, Questionnaires, and Scoring and You (As per D/BU#139)

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) strongly opposes the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and its standardized tests, which they believe drain valuable time and resources from the public education system. Recently, the EQAO website included pop-up surveys that collect unnecessary information about teachers' background and resource use. OSSTF/FEESO advises its members not to complete any voluntary EQAO surveys or questionnaires. The website also hosts webinars on administering EQAO tests, which OSSTF/FEESO believes should be done during instructional hours and not during teachers' personal time. OSSTF/FEESO argues that EQAO's testing regime is a waste of time and resources and contributes to the irresponsible practice of ranking schools, neighborhoods, and communities. OSSTF advises members not to participate as EQAO scorers or in the marking of any EQAO materials.

Members of OSSTF/FEESO are advised not to complete any voluntary EQAO surveys or questionnaires.

Members of OSSTF/FEESO are advised not to complete voluntary EQAO webinars unless time release is provided.

Members of OSSTF/FEESO are advised not to participate as an EQAO scorer or in the marking of any EQAO materials.

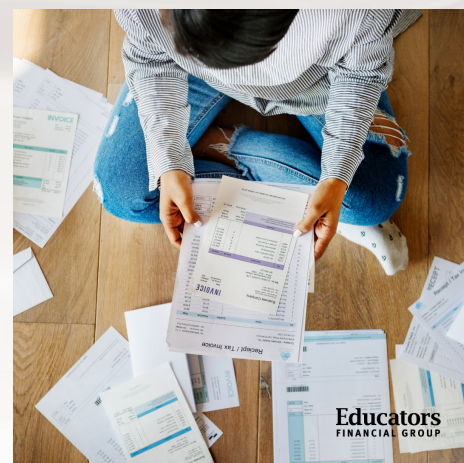
D4 is strong, here is a list of Provincial and labour affiliate committees and workgroups D4 members hold seats on.

Status of Women	<i>Sarah McLaren</i>	Faculty of Education Advisory Workgroup	<i>Jake Loof</i>
Protective Services, Chair	<i>Dave Weichel</i>	New Member Engagement and Advisory Workgroup	<i>Ian Bain</i>
Provincial Council	<i>Parker Robinson</i>	Educational Services	<i>Bryan Elsey</i>
CPAC	<i>Rose Lepage</i>	Community Organizing	<i>Jared Hunt</i>



6 ways to make better use of your tax refund

Another tax season is in the books, and for many of you, it may mean getting a refund on money paid in taxes. In fact, just over half of the 31 million tax returns filed in 2022 received a refund, at an average amount of \$2,176. But, before you rush out to spend it, consider how you can put it to work to enhance your financial future.



Here are 6 ways to make much better use of your tax refund: <https://bit.ly/40J5eT4>. Brought to you by Educators Financial Group.

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PRO TIP

Store an image of your digital card on your phone for quick reference. ►

Edvantage®



PRO TIP

Find your Group name in the drop down when registering for an account.

Your plan admin will know this too. ►

What education members need to know about the new First Home Savings Account

Thinking about buying your first home? Good news. The new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account (FHSA), designed to help qualifying first-time home buyers save for their home, is here. So, how exactly does this new account work and how can education members leverage it to save for their first home?

Read on to learn more about the FHSA and why you should consider opening an FHSA, even if you're unsure about buying a home: <https://bit.ly/41YyS7T>. Brought to you by Educators Financial Group.



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D4 NEWS

ARE YOU FED UP? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH DAY OF ACTION JUNE 3rd— SAVE THE DATE

The Ontario Federation of Labour's "Enough is Enough" campaign is a powerful call to action for workers and communities in the province. Modeled after successful campaigns in the UK, the movement is a response to the growing crisis of precarious work, income inequality, and underfunded public health care and education systems in Ontario. The government's policies have left many struggling to make ends meet, with vulnerable populations being hit the hardest. The campaign is a rallying cry for all Ontarians to come together and demand better. As we approach the June 3 Day of Action, it's time to unite our struggles and fight back against a system that puts corporate interests before the needs of workers and communities. The Enough is Enough campaign is an important step towards building a powerful movement for economic justice in Ontario.

Here are some details about the June 3rd day of action in North Bay:

What: Make some noise and rally, followed by a panel discussion.

When: June 3, 4:00-6:00 PM

Where: Vic Fedeli's Main Street Office and an After Rally Venue (After Rally Venue location to be announced at a later date)

Who: Everyone!

Why: Enough is Enough!

For more information, please contact: Henri Giroux at hgiroux1@hotmail.com



Ford Government Makes Significant Cuts to Funding for 2023-2024 School Year

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) has raised concerns over the significant cuts to public education funding after the release of the Grants for Students Needs (GSN). The 2023-2024 GSNs show that projected funding per pupil stands at \$13,133, down over \$600 compared to last year's funding levels when adjusted for inflation. In fact, over \$1200 per student has been cut since the Ford government took office in 2018. OSSTF/FEESO strongly believes that the government is deliberately withholding money that has been allocated for education, which makes the reduced funding particularly concerning. OSSTF/FEESO is also very concerned about the passing of Bill 98, the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, which includes provisions allowing greater privatization of public education. OSSTF/FEESO urges everyone to contact their elected representatives and demand that the Ford government stop short-changing public education. [Read the full news release here.](#)

The Women's Advocate in this District is:

Name: Meaghan Stocks
Sarah McLaren

Phone: 705-203-3586 **Hours:** Monday to Thursday
705-358-1704 3:30 - 6:30

Email: wwadvocate4@gmail.com
nwadvocate4@gmail.com

READER CONTEST

This Month's Question:

Who is District 4's new Occasional teacher representative?

This Month's prize: A jar of D4 Honey

March Winner: Ryan Culhane (West Ferris Secondary School)

Email answers to Northvp-teachers@d04.osstf.ca by the last Friday of the Month
Subject: 4ShadowAnswers

LABOUR LINKS



ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
LABOUR



If you wish to submit or have questions, please send to: Northvp-teachers@d04.osstf.ca or contact your local branch president.

FOLLOW US



[@District4TBU](https://twitter.com/District4TBU)

[Teachers OSSTF](https://www.facebook.com/TeachersOSSTF)

www.d4osstf.ca



Interim Employee Assistance Program Providers:

Free and confidential services regarding short-term counselling services regarding personal difficulties caused by relationship difficulties, job stress, Eldercare, childcare, parenting, harassment, substance abuse, marital issues such as separation or divorce, financial or legal issues, family violence etc.



Phone: (705)472-9090

Email: morgan@themorgancentre.com

Website: <http://www.themorgancentre.com>



Phone: (705)494-5369

Email: treanor.greerdelarosbel@gmail.com

(Please put Near North DSB EAP in subject line)

Website: <https://www.northbaycounselling.com>



Family Law Support Services

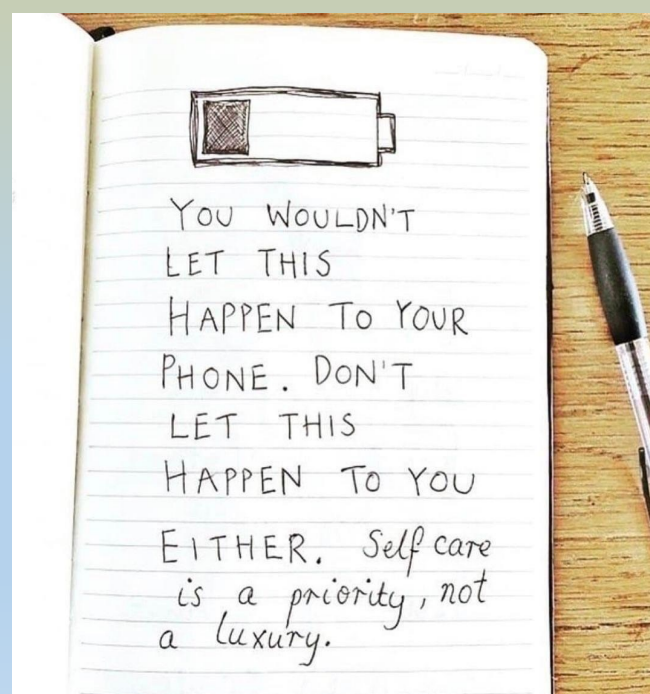
Free and confidential legal services regarding marriage, divorce, separation, adoption for all NNDSB employees and their dependents.

Valin Partners LLP

(705) 474-1220

Email: <https://www.valinpartners.ca/contact-us/#EmailUs>

Website: <https://www.valinpartners.ca>



Our Collective Agreement Important Dates

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

Acronyms and Terms

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

