

Looking Ahead to September



Shane Stagg
President

In the afternoon of Thursday, March 12th, I had a conversation with Operations at the Ed Centre. We discussed parent-teacher interviews and the risk of COVID-19. My recommendation was to cancel any further sessions. It was agreed that the situation would continue to be monitored with decisions to be made at a later date. Ten minutes later, we learned that the Ministry of Education had ordered the closure of schools until the end of March. That's how quickly things can change under these circumstances.

It is not yet clear what September may bring. What we do know is that it will not be business as usual. We can expect to see a blend of in-school and distance learning. Social distancing will remain in effect and steps will be taken to protect the health and safety of

staff and students. Plans are being developed now with the Board and Unions working together. We will not fully know what September will look like until August and we must be prepared for things to change once school starts up. Localized outbreaks or a second wave could affect plans. Similarly, a breakthrough in treatment or a vaccine would change the landscape considerably.

As distance learning continues into next year, the conversation will include the issue of synchronous and asynchronous learning. These have now been re-coined as RealTime and FlexTime learning in Board documents. Expectations from students and families along with requirements from the Ministry are very real in this regard. We can expect the messaging next year to indicate a requirement for some synchronous learning. This has nothing to do with OSSTF changing its position on eLearning. Current circumstances have confirmed that the best opportunities for students exist in a safe classroom setting with a dedicated teacher that is

committed to the learning goals of every student. When that environment is available, eLearning should never be mandatory. When that is not possible however due to a global pandemic, it becomes necessary to move on to the next best thing and that is distance learning. Concerns regarding live online interactions with students remain in effect and it is important for members to

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Looking Ahead to September (cont'd)

understand the risks in order to protect themselves. Take steps to guard privacy, set expectations for student behaviour, and always conduct yourself as if the lesson will be re-played in court and viewed by the world.

The plan for the return to school in September will not be entirely unique to the DDSB. It will be informed by what is put in place across the province, across the country and around the world. It will be guided by decisions made by health

departments and health ministries. As well, Provincial OSSTF has published a document that outlines priorities for a safe return to school that includes considerations regarding health and safety and pedagogy. We are not alone in our concerns to keep staff and students safe, and we share the challenge of delivering curriculum to students.

As we head into a summer with more questions than answers, I hope you find rest from what

has been a tremendous year. As we support members with the work that we do, I want to express sincere gratitude for the support we have received in return. Whether it's job action in defence of public education or re-inventing teaching during a global pandemic, the members of District 13 have demonstrated extraordinary resolve and commitment to the profession. Be proud of what has been accomplished this year and enjoy a well-deserved break. You've certainly earned it.



Posaction Plus counselling service is available through our OTIP LTD contract. On an annual (calendar year) basis, you can access up to 12 hours of free face-to-face psychosocial counselling for you and/or your immediate family members. Posaction Plus can assist you with work-related, family, personal or dependency problems. At this time, sessions are also available via distance options.

Posaction Plus is mentioned on the District 13 website, in each newsletter, on the yearly information cards that District 13 distributes to members in September and brochures are available from your Branch President and Health & Safety Committee reps in each school. You can also contact the District 13 Office for the LTD Policy number, which changed January 1, 2020.

10 Tips for Summer Safe Grilling

Provided by OTIP

Many Canadians choose to take their cooking outdoors in the summer to make the most of the long days of sunshine. However, it's important to take precautions when barbecuing to prevent potential fire-related injuries and damage to your home. Before you light up the grill this summer, make sure to review the following grilling safety tips.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article72.

What's New In Our New Central Agreement?



Ryan Kelly
Chief Negotiator

Our new Central Collective Agreements (Teacher/Occasional Teachers (T/OT) and PSSP) have changes that take place immediately, and some that come into effect upon ratification of the particular local agreement.

The Permanent Teachers' Bargaining Unit Local Brief is being modified to be in-line with the terms of our new Central Agreement. While the Permanent Teachers' Bargaining Unit does not have dates scheduled with the Board, we will be available at their convenience. We continue to look forward to the opportunity to advance the professional priorities of our members.

The full Collective Agreements as well as the summaries are available at www.osstf.on.ca in the MyOSSTF section.

Any retroactive payments will be paid within 30 days following ratification of local terms.

Salary Increases

Both T/OT & PSSP

All salary grids, wage schedules, premiums and allowances increase by:

- September 1, 2019: 1%
- September 1, 2020: 1%
- September 1, 2021: 1%

The following came into effect upon ratification of our Central Collective Agreements:

Terms

Both T/OT & PSSP

- 3 year term - September 1st, 2019 to August 31st, 2022

Class Size

T/OT Only

- Regulation changes that fund classroom teaching positions (excluding e-learning classes) at 23:1 and require a maximum class size average of 23.
- Regulation changes that fund e-learning classes at 30:1 and require a maximum class size average of 30.
- Reference to our staffing generator in our local agreement shall be replaced with language that references the regulations.
- Workload limitations related to class size (caps, pupil/teacher contact, etc.) shall be amended to allow for an average class size of 23:1. This was accomplished as follows: Up to 10% of classes in the board may pierce existing caps by up to two (2) students.
- E-learning class size limitations will be amended to a maximum class size of 35 students.

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What's New In Our New Central Agreement? (cont'd)

E-Learning

T/OT Only

- E-learning is defined as a credit course delivery that relies on communication between students and teachers through an internet/digital platform and does not require students to be face-to-face with each other or with their teacher.
- Two (2) mandatory e-learning courses are required for graduation for the cohort of students entering grade 9 in 2020-2021.
- Parents can opt-out and school staff can recommend opt-out.
- Courses shall be delivered by bargaining unit members who have expressed interest, where possible.
- Any training required for credit delivery will be available during the workday. Teachers will be provided with software and hardware required for online delivery.
- Letter of Understanding that requires the government to consult with OSSTF/FEESO prior to the establishment of alternate delivery models of e-learning.
- At the provincial level, OPSBA and OSSTF will meet to discuss and develop guidelines for boards regarding the implementation of the e-learning regulation and/or PPM.

Benefits

T/OT Only

- Language re: funding ensures that benefits remain status quo for members.
- Previously excluded LTOs now eligible for benefits in the OSSTF ELHT for assignments of 90 calendar days or more.
- Previously excluded Adult Day School teachers now eligible for inclusion, based upon ELHT criteria.
- New Provincial Benefits Committee to deal with matters related to the OSSTF ELHT.

PSSP Only

- Language re: funding ensures that benefits remain status quo for members.
- Previously excluded term employees eligible for inclusion in the OSSTF ELHT for assignments of 90 calendar days or more. The assignment must be in a job class where a minimum of 24 hours per week denotes full-time.

Sick Leave

Both T/OT & PSSP

- Status quo except for the following changes:
 - Routine medical and dental appointments will be scheduled outside of working hours where possible.
 - If the school board requests, the teacher shall provide medical confirmation to access STLDP (the 90% paid days).
 - The Board cannot deny access to sick leave solely on the basis of a denied WSIB claim.

What's New In Our New Central Agreement? (cont'd)

Supports for Students Fund

Both T/OT & PSSP

- Fully restored for 2020-2021 and increased by 1% for 2021-2022.
- Funding for positions to address special education, unique learning needs, as well as mental health initiatives.
- The FTE will be for school-based teaching positions that work directly with students. The funding will not be used to create central office teaching positions that work directly with other teachers.
- Funding provided for Adult Day School wage parity carries forward.

Children's Mental Health, Special Needs and Other Initiatives

PSSP Only

- Renewal of Letter of Understanding

Certification

T/OT Only

- Move to QECO as provider of certification rating statements. Existing statements will continue to be recognized.

Scheduled Unpaid Leave Plan

PSSP Only

- Educations workers can still choose to take two (2) unpaid days during two (2) Board designated PA days.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Federation Officers for clarity on any of the above points.

DISTRICT 13 SUMMER HOURS

To contact District Officers during the summer, see the *Contact* page on our website (www.d13.osstf.ca) for email addresses.

In case of an emergency, please contact a Duty Officer at Provincial OSSTF at 1-800-267-7867.

Stay Safe, Stay Well!

District 13 OSSTF and our Community



Richard McCormack *Executive Officer's Report*

The District 13 Public Relations Committee arranges advertising efforts for OSSTF District 13 Durham. You may have seen our bus ads or our rink boards showcasing the good work of District 13 in our area. During the COVID crisis, the Public Relations Committee has turned its advertising attention to both promote District 13 and support workers and families in the community.

Below is a description of each of the initiatives that District 13 OSSTF has supported during COVID-19.

Simcoe Hall Settlement House and Kid's Ceramic Kits



District 13 OSSTF has sponsored the creation of 50 ceramic kits for Simcoe Hall Settlement House in its efforts to provide these to

the children in their after-school program. Many of the children in this program do not have access to the luxuries other children do and as a result are bored while at home during the global pandemic. The kids will be able to create their own ceramic kit and this initiative is an effort to boost the children's morale and give them something to look forward to.

Frantastic Events and Breakfast Box Deliveries



District 13 OSSTF has sponsored the breakfast box program provided by Frantastic Events, a local catering organization. Frantastic created breakfast boxes for 94 parents and children, residing in a Durham Region subsidized housing area in Oshawa. We have also partnered with Frantastic to

provide breakfast boxes to 60 workers at Thornton View Long Term Care facility in Oshawa. The breakfast box program has been created in this time of COVID-19 and we were happy to partner with Frantastic Events to support their efforts in supporting people in need as well as boosting morale within the community.

Kids Help Phone Radio Spot

We have sponsored a radio spot for Kids Help Phone on a local radio station, CIUX 105.5 Uxbridge/Durham. The message in the radio spot was centered around encouraging kids to reach out for help if they needed to during the COVID-19 global pandemic via Kids Help Phone.

CAREA Community Health Centre and the Breakfast for Champions Program



District 13 OSSTF has sponsored CAREA Community Health Centre's Pickering location and their Breakfast for Champions program. On this day, courtesy of D13 OSSTF, the program created 50 free breakfast hampers for families needing extra help during the pandemic.

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District 13 OSSTF and our Community (cont'd)

Durham CareMongers and Families in Need

District 13 OSSTF has purchased grocery gift cards for families in need. These will be delivered to families in the Durham Region courtesy of an organization called Durham CareMongers. We are happy to partner with a great local organization who is striving to make the lives of many in our community better.

Brothers Ristorante and Pizza Deliveries to Front Line Workers in Durham Region

District 13 OSSTF has partnered with Brothers Ristorante in Whitby to deliver pizza to front line workers in the Durham Region. To date, pizza was delivered to the employees of

two Deafblind group homes in Oshawa on Thursday, June 11, 2020. More to come.

Cornerstone Community Association Durham and a Meal Delivered

District 13 OSSTF has sponsored a dinner for 30-40 men. Cornerstone offers individualized support services, food, shelter and transitional housing to men 16+, women and families throughout Durham region.

Operation Backpack and Preparing for Next Year

District 13 OSSTF has provided funding for 50 backpacks that will go to vulnerable children or young adults within the

Durham Region. The backpacks are provided to help prepare for the school year ahead and they will be filled with age appropriate school supplies along with OSSTF pencils, erasers and tattoos.

Krums Breadery & Stuff and Phlebotomists at Lakeridge Health Labs

District 13 OSSTF has partnered with Krums Breadery & Stuff Inc, a local business, to provide boxed lunches to the Lakeridge Health Labs at the Oshawa Hospital. This is yet another way District 13 OSSTF is supporting local business during this difficult time and showing our support by thanking front line workers in Durham Region.

The District 13 Executive for 2020-2021

George Chaktsiris *Communications Chair*

Normally we hold District elections at our District Annual Meeting (DAM), but with the unexpected ramifications of being in a global pandemic, we

had to postpone this event. This year, the one contested race was for Additional TBU Provincial Councillor. To facilitate this election, we were fortunate enough to be able to use the online balloting

technology of OSSTF's Provincial Office that was used to ratify our Central Collective Agreement. Listed below are the elected members of the District 13 OSSTF Executive for next year.

President: Shane Stagg

Vice Presidents: Erin Crawford, Richard McCormack, Garrett Metcalfe, Rob Walker

Secretary: Laura Michaluk

Treasurer: Nicole Bléau

Provincial Councillors: Shane Stagg (TBU), Ryan Kelly (TBU), Avril Burns (OTBU), Jennifer Seif, (PSSP)

Thank-you to Matt Thomas for your term as Co-Chair of the Educational Political Action Committee.
We thank you for your service and time you dedicated to this Committee.

From OSSTF Certification to QECO: What Does This Mean for You?



Nicole Bléau
Executive Officer's Report

Certification is the process by which a teacher is placed in a particular category for the purpose of determining their placement on the salary grid. OSSTF has always handled its own certification, whereas, all of the other teaching affiliates use the services of QECO (Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario) to process their certification. As of the ratification of the Central deal, OSSTF will now use QECO as well. It is very important to note that with this transition, it is agreed that no member of OSSTF will suffer a loss of ranking due to the transition. You will either remain at the same level or be eligible for an increase.

So What Does this Mean for you?

Although there are a lot of similarities between OSSTF Certification and QECO, their ratings and processes are not identical. Both systems use a basic four category chart as well

as recognizing additional degrees, additional qualifications and Specialists credentials. The question is whether or not you need to take action to ensure that you receive the most possible after this transition. See where you stand in the options below:

You have reached OSSTF Group 4

There is nothing for you to do. Your OSSTF Group 4 rating is considered equivalent to a QECO Category A4 without assessment. Therefore, your records have been transferred to QECO but will remain archived unless you need a reevaluation in the future. Note: if you used an additional degree in order to reach OSSTF Group 4, a reassessment is recommended as per the next bullet.

You are in OSSTF Group 1, 2 or 3

You should request a reevaluation by QECO in case you are eligible for a higher rating under their criteria than you were under OSSTF. Your records have been transferred to QECO but will not be reviewed until you request it. You will not need to submit additional documentation as they will simply reexamine the records they have. Go to <https://applications.qeco.on.ca>. Your current pay level will remain unchanged with the

Board until you can provide a higher rating from QECO.

It is recommended that you request a reevaluation once a year in case any of the regulations have changed which would allow you to advance. This is especially important for teachers with international credentials. Of course, if you complete new credentials, you will also request a reevaluation.

You are a new teacher and have not yet received a Certification Rating of any kind

You will request an evaluation by QECO at <https://pplications.qeco.on.ca>.

What Do I Do Next?

If your evaluation results in an increase in your rating, you need to provide this information to the DDSB or else you will never receive your eligible pay increase. QECO functions entirely electronically so you can log in and get digital copies of your rating to provide to the Board. Email a copy of your new statement of evaluation to steven.grimes@ddsb.ca the Supervisor of Employee Records. The QECO rating is eligible for grid placement from the date that the Central deal was ratified. Best of luck!

What Could a Post COVID-19 World Look Like?



George Chaktsiris
Communications Chair

The ideas in this article came about during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, they continued to evolve by the time of writing and will continue to do so. The main topics are broader than the usual educational issues that are discussed in this publication. However, they can still be important to explore as we look at what we want in a public education system, while ensuring that we meet the basic needs of everyone to allow for proper engagement in the education system that we fight so hard to protect and make better.

During the pandemic, we saw the Federal Government come up with an income replacement for those who could not work because of COVID-19. This brings to mind the ideas of a basic guaranteed minimum income, like the one that we began to test drive here in Ontario prior to its cancellation. This is an idea I first heard about years ago and makes perfect

sense to me: could we not ensure that everyone at least has a fighting chance of avoiding poverty?

If you are not familiar with this idea the basic principle is that everyone is provided a basic income from the government. What happens to this benefit when you earn more money depends on the design. Of course, the common rhetoric to combat this idea is who is going to pay for this? And why would we discourage people from wanting a job? To this I say, first, who just wants to scrape by? If we reduce the benefit paid to people at a rate of say 50 cents on the dollar, then you still have a reason to try and find a job and earn more if you are able. You will still see the benefit until you earn double the basic benefit. Who pays for this? All of us who have the good fortune of earning an income through our taxes, and yes most of the burden could fall on those who make the most and large corporations.

This idea of universal benefits can be applied to many other things too such as health care. And not just basic but also what is currently known as extended health benefits (things our benefit plan covers and are not covered under OHIP). We already know

education pays dividends to society, and why we continue to fight for better public education. This list can keep going, use your imagination.

It was also hard to imagine that we would see a time when we considered jobs like working in a grocery store as “essential services”. We have always looked to those in the medical profession, fire departments, police, and other related sectors like that. But I doubt many of us would raise our hand to argue at the idea that the student who sits in our class would also be an essential worker since they work at No Frills. This should also shape how we think about what we pay people: these are primarily minimum wage jobs, but essential? Yes, we have given them a wage top up, but that seems temporary. Should we not make this more increase permanent as many essential services have that fact accounted for in their rate of pay?

These are just some of the questions that I think about, and hopefully have inspired you to do the same. I have heard from previous generations that you used to be able to do well enough with a job as a waitress. This was shown to me by my Grandmother who was a waitress for many years. She managed to

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What Could a Post COVID-19 World Look Like? (cont'd)

raise three children and eventually buy a house, as a woman who came to Canada in her early twenties as a widow from civil war in Greece. Today, her line of work is part of the so-called “gig economy”. She would not be able to do what she did today and that is a shame. We need to reexamine the idea of work and not set the model up so that people fail, needing several low paying jobs

only to find themselves still behind the mark.

I could continue to go on, but instead I encourage you to think about what you would like to see made better as we come out of the horrible situation we find ourselves in. I also understand that I will not see all of my hopes come to bear fruit in my life time, and that every version of any story

that deals with utopian ideas results in some sort of dystopian experience along the way. But, if we don't work towards something better as a society, there is no hope because we will have let dystopia win rather than continuously working to drive out whatever dystopian elements arise. Put on those rose-coloured glasses and dream big and work for that better society.

FeelingBetterNow®

Connecting Mental Health Problems to Solutions

Stressed, anxious or depressed?

Go to: feelingbetternow.com/otip







Assess your mental health

View your action plan

Access your self-care toolbox

Resources in *Your Toolbox* include:



Helping Yourself



Stress Reduction



Helping Others

www.feelingbetternow.com/otip



New Benefits Eligibility for LTOs and Extended Occasional Assignments



Nicole Bléau Executive Officer's Report

As part of the newly ratified Central agreement, effective September 2020, OTBU members within an LTO or Extended Occasional assignment of 90 calendar days or more are eligible to join the OSSTF benefits plan. Here is what you should know about joining the plan and what you can do if not eligible.

Eligibility

- Eligibility is effective September 2020
- Open to members within an LTO or Extended Occasional assignment of 90 calendar days or more
- Eligibility exists from the first day of the assignment through to the end of the assignment; if the assignment is extended, then the eligibility is too

Benefits

- You will be joining the OSSTF ELHT Benefits Plan. This is the

same plan as the Permanent Teachers and your rates and benefits will be the same as well.

- Single plan: \$11.62/month (Extended Health \$7.61, Dental \$4.01, Life Insurance Included for Free)
- Family plan: \$29.05/month (Extended Health \$19.03, Dental \$10.02, Life Insurance Included for Free)
- Details of the plan are available at www.d13.osstf.ca/OTBU.

Verifying your Eligibility

- The ability to register and access benefits is based on your status in the HR system with the DDSB.
- For these assignments, the Board will have to manually notify OTIP.
- We are still coordinating with the Board on what their procedures for this notification will be.
- As information becomes available, we will provide details to the membership.

Registration

- Once your eligibility has been verified, you will need to register online at www.otip.com/enrol.
- You will have up to 31 days after your invitation to join to

complete your registration. Tutorials are available on the website to help you through the process at www.otip.com/loginhelp.

- If you miss the deadline to register, you will not be eligible to join or make changes later without medical clearance (specific life changes such as getting married or having a child not withstanding).

What If I Don't Have an Eligible LTO or Extended Occasional assignment?

- Then you will not be eligible to join the OSSTF ELHT plan.
- You will remain eligible to participate in the pay-in-lieu of benefit plan which allows you to purchase benefits on your own and seek partial reimbursement from the DDSB if you qualify.
- See details on the pay-in-lieu plan at www.d13.osstf.ca/OTBU.

Questions regarding benefits can be directed to District 13 Benefits Officer, Nicole Bléau at nicole.bleau@d13.osstf.ca.



Why You Need to Tell Your Insurer if You Install a Roof Rack or Make Other Car Modifications.

Provided by OTIP

Thinking about installing a roof rack on your car for bikes or skis, or modifying your vehicle in another way? Always inform your insurer before you make any changes to your vehicle. Modifications can impact your insurance if they alter the vehicle's safety, increase the likelihood of an accident or increase the value of the vehicle. Here are a few things you need to know about the various types of vehicle modifications.



For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article73.

PSSP Recap 2019-2020



Jennifer Seif

PSSP BU President's Report

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) membership, for all your efforts throughout this unprecedented school year. Thank you for the commitment, flexibility and support that you have shown the PSSP Executive and Collective Bargaining Committee (CBC).

Local Bargaining will continue until a tentative agreement is reached between our Bargaining

Unit and the Board. Please continue to monitor your personal emails during the summer months for updates.

Over the summer months, your executive will be working alongside the Board to develop re-entry protocols for the 2020-2021 school year. Please continue to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Our 2020-2022 PSSP Executive is represented by:

- President:
Jennifer Seif (Interpreter)
- Vice-President:
Herberth Canas (Social Worker)
- Chief Negotiator:
Elizabeth MacDonald
(Psychological Associate)

- Secretary/Treasurer:
Esther Somogyi (Psychometrist)
- Health & Safety Officer:
Stephanie Pritchard (Interpreter)
- Educational Services Officer:
Amanda Frumkin (Speech and Language Pathologist)
- Executive Officer:
Riisa Dear (Social Worker)
- Pay Equity Officer:
Jenifer Mascoll (Speech and Language Pathologist)







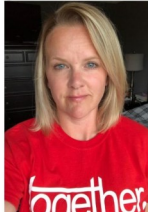
Our 2020-2022 PSSP CBC is represented by:

- Erica Taylor - Psychological Services
- Linda Temple - Speech & Language
- Jacqueline Westcott - Interpreters/Intervenors
- Jamila Williams - Social Workers



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PSSP Recap 2019-2020 (cont'd)

2020-2022 **D13-PSSP Executive**

<p>Jennifer Seif</p>  <p>President</p>	<p>Herberth Canas</p>  <p>Vice-President</p>	<p>Elizabeth MacDonald</p>  <p>Chief Negotiator</p>
<p>Esther Somogyi</p>  <p>Secretary - Treasurer</p>	<p>Riisa Dear</p> <p>Executive Officer</p>	<p>Amanda Frumkin</p>  <p>Educational Services Officer</p>
<p>Stephanie Pritchard</p>  <p>Health & Safety Officer</p>	<p>Jenifer Mascoll</p>  <p>Pay Equity Officer</p>	

2020-2022 **D13-PSSP CBC**

<p>Erica Taylor</p> <p>Psychological Services</p>	<p>Linda Temple</p>  <p>Speech and Language</p>
<p>Jacquie Westcott</p>  <p>Interpreters/Intervenors</p>	<p>Jamila Williams</p>  <p>Social Workers</p>

CAREpath
The Health Care Navigation System



CAREpath provides support for our teachers and their families when they are faced with a new diagnosis or a recurrent diagnosis of cancer. The support also includes a cancer survivor support program which can assess health risks in order to reduce the risk of recurrence. If you, your spouse or children need this support, call today! Contact the District Office for the LTD Policy #. If you want cancer treatment information for friends and extended family members, you can call the free Cancer Info Line at 1 800 290 5106.

OTBU News



Avril Burns
OTBU President

To say this year has been very challenging is almost an understatement. The government's insistence on using legislation to take away our right to collectively bargain class size average and pay led to pickets and rotating one-day strike actions which the government ignored, even as public opinion continued to build on our side. COVID-19 led to school closures forcing teachers to recreate lessons and assignments to make them suitable for online learning and daily OT assignments were eliminated. There were some bright spots too. Staying at home allowed us to spend more time with our families and provided us with many opportunities for us to support vulnerable relatives and neighbours. And, in the end, the new Central Collective Agreement finally added eligible Durham OTs to the OSSTF ELHT benefits plan.

As we wind the year down, it is worth reviewing some of these items, as well as the more

important business that we need to attend to before the school year ends.

The Roster

All Occasional Teachers are reminded of the eligibility requirements for remaining on the Secondary Occasional Teacher Roster for 2020-2021.

- Work a minimum of one day in 2019-2020 in a DDSB Secondary School
- Complete the Supply Status Form, available via Employee Self Serve, before June 30th
- Complete the Offence Declaration, available in ESS by September 15th

Teachers missing any one of these requirements will be removed from the Roster.

Job Postings

The Permanent Teacher surplus and redundancy round is now over. Permanent or Long Term Occasional postings will be posted in Apply to Education on or after June 22nd at 4:00 pm.

Voluntary Redeployment Plan

As a response to staff shortages created by COVID-19, the Ontario Government launched their Voluntary Redeployment Program (VRP) to allow people from the broader public service to volunteer for temporary redeployment in a health care or long-term care facility that is

in critical need of additional staffing resources.

Click [here](#) for more information or to register for the program. If paired with a community partner, teachers will be paid in accordance with the terms of our Collective Agreement.

OTBU Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting had to be postponed due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and sparked discussion over whether we would be able to follow our elections procedure, as outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws. The need to allow for people to run from the floor and to provide an online, secure, ranked ballot that names could be added to on the fly meant that an in-person meeting would be preferable. As a result, our 2020 Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 6th, 2020. We are growing more confident that we will be able to meet in person now that Durham is in phase two of the emergency, and we continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. Updates will be posted at www.d13.osstf.ca/OTBU. As September approaches, information will be sent to members by regular mail and emailed to teachers on our Member Contact List. If you have not already done so

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OTBU News (cont'd)

recently, please take a moment to confirm your correct mailing address in myOSSTF in the OSSTF [member protected site](#) and subscribe to our Member Contact List by sending an email from your personal (not Board) account to avril.burns@d13.osstf.ca

OSSTF Benefits Plan

One bright spot from the signing of the new Central Collective

Agreement is that Durham OTs who have an LTO or Extended Occasional assignment lasting 90 calendar days or more (about 3 months) are now eligible to join the OSSTF Central benefits plan, also called the Employee Life and Health Trust (ELHT). See Nicole Bléau's article on this topic in this issue for more information. Teachers who do not qualify for the ELHT may

still sign up for the Payment in Lieu of Benefits plan, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements based on the previous year. For more information about the Payment in Lieu of Benefits plan, go to www.d13.osstf.ca/OTBU.

Have a safe and happy summer!

COVID-19: We're here to help!

Provided by OTIP

As the situation with COVID-19 keeps evolving, OTIP continues to work closely with its stakeholders and partners to make proactive decisions that are grounded in care for its members and employees. Learn what you need to know about access OTIP's services during this time.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article67.

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