

## Government Failure to Adequately Support School Opening



**Shane Stagg**  
*President*

When educators were challenged with the task of reinventing teaching and learning during a pandemic they responded with professionalism and talent. Every effort has been applied to support students both face-to-face and online. This has come at a cost. Common descriptions of the current circumstances tell of exhaustion and stress. There is concern for safety, concern with meeting the needs of students, and quite simply, concern with being able to keep up this pace for an entire year.

How could it all have been different? How about if educators and students found their way back feeling assured that the system was set up for safety and success? Responsibility for that rests with the Provincial Government. In other countries, return to school plans were developed in

collaboration with workers. How different it would be if we could say that in Ontario. Unfortunately, repeated efforts by OSSTF and other education affiliates to have meaningful discussions at the provincial level continue to be met with a wall of indifference. Through a collection of changing plans and announcements, the Ontario Government has offered up direction to educators that is ill conceived and fails to demonstrate a commitment to the success, safety, and wellbeing of staff and students. The Government put financial parameters around the return to school that interferes with having adequate resources. A shortage of people, space, technology, and supplies are the result of inadequate funding.

At its best, students would not be spending more time at home than in school. Safe spaces would be arranged to have masked and socially distant students learning face-to-face with the support of their teacher and other educators.

If online learning is necessary it should be accompanied by the appropriate technology. Larger

monitors to ease eye strain and muscle tension would be a suitable addition during normal times but particularly during this period of extended online teaching. Readily available document cameras and styluses would be nice as well and would continue to have good use after a return to a regular school setting. As well, a dedicated team to offer technical support to students

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## Government Failure to Adequately Support School Opening (cont'd)

at home would be a very welcome investment.

As families struggled in the face of a quickly evolving situation to decide whether their children would attend school face-to-face or online, meeting the required deadline to allow staffing to be shifted in time to accommodate became impossible. The result is hundreds of student now waitlisted for online with no virtual seat available for them. The remedy would require the funding necessary to hire teachers and other educators to deliver classes as students make the painful choice to leave their face-to-face classes. It would be a prudent use of funds to support public education's responsibility to meet the needs of students.

Funding to ensure that our most vulnerable students who have opted for online learning have access to an online team of teachers, PSSPs, and EAs dedicated to their success would ease the gap that is growing between different populations of students.

Additional staff to ensure that schools are sanitized throughout the day and funds to offer improvements to ventilation systems would be key aspects of a properly funded school re-opening plan as well.

The Ministry allowed Boards to dig into their reserves to cover some additional costs, but it's not enough. As well, the consequence of this is hardship in the future. The pandemic will leave the Board without a cushion to absorb expenses down the road.

Please consider as well that this is all taking place with dozens of fewer teachers in secondary schools than there would have been if the class size funding ratio was not changed from 22:1 to 23:1 last spring. This came as a direct result of a Government attack on public education.

As members take on the challenge of educating students, connecting with families, and managing safety in a way that has never been experienced before they are reminded to carve out time for themselves. Your families need you. Your pets and gardens and other hobbies need your attention. A way has to be found to continue the work we do through to a successful end of a school year. The system only works if the workers are still standing. Rely on each other and most importantly, look out for each other.



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.

## Negotiations Update



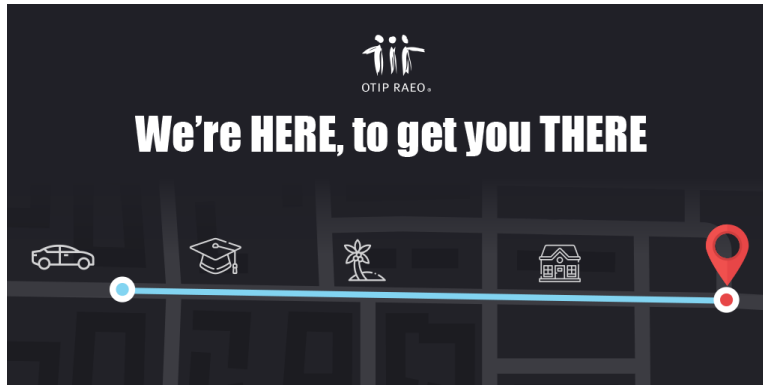
**Ryan Kelly**  
*Chief Negotiator*

At the time of writing this update, we are set to resume local contract negotiations with three scheduled dates: Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. While

past sessions included fulsome discussions on a variety of topics, much has happened since to warrant revision in brief and strategy. To this end, our brief has been modified to comply with the Central Deal, and our path forward will be a phased approach to best utilize our limited negotiation time. Regardless, our focus is square with the priorities identified by our membership, and our hope is to include both mutually amenable topics and items responsive to

our current reality and associated practices.

As you may be aware, our retroactive salary increases are deliverable within thirty days of ratifying our local deal. We will proceed in earnest toward as many improvements to our working conditions as possible. On behalf of our negotiations team, I want to thank you for your input in identifying our priorities, and your diligence in maintaining the terms and conditions of our contract.



**OTIP welcomes you  
back with a chance to  
win \$10,000!**

*Provided by OTIP*

As a new school year begins, so does a brand-new contest from OTIP. We want to give you the chance to win **\$10,000 in cash or 1 of 2 \$500 VIA Rail gift cards** to help you get wherever it is that you want to go! You could buy that new car, save for your child's education, take a vacation or put a down payment on a new house, it is up to you!

To enter the contest for your chance to win, visit: [www.OTIP.com/get\\_you\\_there](http://www.OTIP.com/get_you_there)

# Welcome Back! How was your first day of school?



**George Chaktsiris**  
*Communications Chair*

How was your first day of school in almost half a year? Was it what you expected? What feelings did you have? What worried you? Did they do a good enough job at setting up a system to keep us safe? These are certainly all questions that we have probably asked ourselves in some form since we started up school again.

For me personally, I think almost every conceivable feeling has been felt since school started. This is saying a lot, as those of you who know me can attest, I sometimes have the reputation of only having one feeling: hunger. But since September rolled around I have felt concerned for my safety as well as my family's safety. I have two children who attend school and are therefore possibly exposed daily, I am exposed to approximately 1500 staff and students every two days at work. Also, there are all of the concerns and alarms that have been ringing from people much smarter than myself in the field

of infectious disease combined with the rapid increase in case count provincially happening shortly after school started.

However, as probably each and every one of you have, I have also felt like I am burning the candle at both ends while it rests on a bed of hot coals melting it in the middle too. At best, this seems like it will end in nothing better than a congealed mess at the end of the day. We have been asked to go well above and beyond what any of us would have normally done in any given year including what feels like working many extra hours just to keep up. We have been asked to be educators, mental health experts, technology experts, tech support experts, and the list goes on. I don't know that I have felt this worn down, this early, even in my first couple of years teaching.

Some of the many issues that have come up during our virtual learning experiment that we are currently conducting have exposed many things that we just have not had any experience with, or enough professional development around. The biggest part of this that comes to mind is around classroom management in a virtual setting. It does not seem to matter where in your

professional career you are, early or near the end, we have no reference point to get our bearings when we experience things. As someone who is in the second half of his career, I have a wealth of experience to draw on and react with when in a physical classroom. As new education professionals, we could always draw on our experiences as a student and ask ourselves "what would one of my teachers have done in a similar situation?". We always had some link to a reference in our schooling of how to react or not react. This is strikingly missing from our tool box in the current situation as we just don't have the references for virtual learning yet, nor have we really had enough professional development in this area. Don't get me wrong, we have had a lot of strategies, ideas and information thrown at us, but, with our time being eaten up instantaneously these days, I know I have not really had the opportunity to digest these, or test them in practice to work out the kinks.

But to reference Monty Python, we can "look on the bright side of life", especially when "life is a piece of..." (We all know how the rest goes). The idea of coming to work, leaving the house with a sense of purpose and having the time during my commute to have some much

## Welcome Back! How was your first day of school?

needed “me time” has been a wonderful experience smeared in what can only be described as nostalgia of a time that now seems so long ago. As scary and tiring as it has been, this is something that has seemed like a small piece of “normalcy” in a world where that doesn’t seem to exist anymore.

At the end of the day, I guess my larger point in writing this is to share what was going through my head as we restarted school to give the rest of you another

reference point to see how you are feeling. Also yes, you should feel all of the things going through your head; know that many of us are feeling all these things too. Continue to be vigilant about health and safety practices. Continue to ask your questions about health and safety practices and concerns to your branch reps and your Administration. Rest assured that your District Representatives are asking these questions of the Upper

Management at the Board level, and your Provincial Office Representatives are doing the same at the Ministry levels.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones and make sure that you have something that makes your life better that you enjoy. If we don’t do this, we will burn out faster and harder than we usually do throughout the school year. If you need help, please reach out to the District Office.

### FeelingBetterNow®

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View your action plan

Access your self-care toolbox

Resources in *Your Toolbox* include:





Helping Yourself

Stress Reduction

Helping Others

[www.feelingbetternow.com/otip](http://www.feelingbetternow.com/otip)



## 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.



## PSSP News: Welcome Back!



**Amanda Frumkin**  
*Educational Services Officer,  
PSSP*

I write this with the understanding that I cannot possibly convey all perspectives of what is currently occurring in the schools for the diverse population of our relatively small group. The PSSP is a truly varied and talented group. Some of us work daily face-to-face with students in classrooms. Others of us are continuously figuring out appropriate mental health provisions, language and communication, and academic support to students using virtual platforms that we have learned can be replaced at any given moment. We are meeting with students in clinical spaces that have been carefully cleaned and arranged with the safety of our students in mind. But, for those of us using these spaces, we are well-aware that by ensuring the safety of our students, we also benefit from these protected spaces. Still others manage to have one foot in the virtual world and the other in their regular schools.

Allow me to preface the following section by acknowledging that nothing about COVID-19 is funny. It is very serious. However, I would like to try to lighten the mood a bit by focusing on some humorous aspects of our “new normal”. Things I have recently found amusing include but are not limited to the following: the fact that some of us have become quickly (and frankly, rudely) acquainted with technology in a way we did not anticipate; we can create personal steam showers by using a mask, face shield, and everyday reading glasses; we have learned that the stability of Plexiglass dividers are, like our lives, not so stable and very unpredictable; we are not likely to venture out of the house without our masks OR identification badges again; the number of crows feet lining our eyes (and their depth) indicate either our most sincere joy or our bitter aggravation (and only a very select—or perceptive—few will ever know which); and finally, it is inevitable that our computers will freeze during virtual meetings and that our expressions will never be frozen in a flattering manner. EVER.

COVID-19 has made the return to school unlike any other. The

ubiquitous threat of it has made us experience an array of emotions ranging from fear, skepticism, introspection, agitation, guilt, gratitude, and compassion. Some of us might sit in one mood a little longer than another, and we hear and read that this is to be expected given the circumstances. I hope we have all learned through this that we are loved and needed; our health and safety are crucial to our beloved students’ continued support and that we can still look to and out for each other for help, especially during times of uncertainty. I am so grateful to work with my colleagues in education and to be able to be part of the students’ progress in whatever capacity I am able during this time. I know the services my colleagues provide in and/or out of the schools make a positive impact on the well-being, achievement, and success of students, their parents, and educators.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay supportive of each other, and be kind to yourselves.

***Save the date***

**PSSP AGM 2020**

**December 2, 2020**

**More details to follow.**

## Education Topics in 2020



### **Richard McCormack** *Executive Officer's Report*

#### **OSSLT**

March 18, 2020 – The Ontario government announced the cancellation of all remaining standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. As a result, the requirement of successfully completing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma has been waived for

students who were eligible for graduation in that school year. According to the administration dates on the EQAO website, plans are to run the OSSLT online in the spring of 2021.

#### **New Math Curriculum**

June 23, 2020 – The Ontario government released a new math curriculum for elementary students. It is to be implemented starting September 2020. The new math curriculum will look to build financial literacy, teach coding and computer programming skills, connect math to everyday life, and focus on fundamental math concepts and skills.

#### **De-streaming**

July 9, 2020 - The Ontario government announced that they will be phasing out streaming in grade 9. The plan will start by de-streaming Grade 9 math in 2021 and a new math curriculum for the new course will be released at a later date. The government has not yet indicated if or when other subjects would follow.

#### **Regulation 274**

October 15, 2020 – The Ontario Government announced that they will be scrapping Regulation 274 and replacing it with an interim teacher hiring policy. The government will look to implement a Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) in November.

## Don't make these 5 common renovation mistakes!

*Provided by OTIP*

Renovating can make your home or office feel fresh, new and inviting. It's an exciting opportunity to dream about your ideal space and make it a reality. If you're going through the time, effort and expense to renovate, make sure you do it right the first time around by avoiding these five common mistakes.



Learn more at [www.otipinsurance.com/article83](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article83)

# Anti-Black Racism Efforts within OSSTF



## Nicole Bléau *Executive Officer's Report*

Faced with an international pandemic, we have all had to examine the choices we make and how those choices impact the people around us. But there has been a different kind of reckoning this year as well which also makes us think about the choices we make. The death of George Floyd and the ensuing public outcry about anti-Black racism has reminded us how much work there is to be done in tackling the issue of systemic racism. OSSTF provincially and locally has always prided itself on being a leader in advocating for social justice issues in our society. However, recent events have highlighted that - like all other organizations - OSSTF is not exempt from the scourge of systemic racism. We have work to do within our own organization to ensure that we do not perpetuate the negative impacts of racism.

Outlined below are some of the efforts within OSSTF Provincial and Local that are being undertaken to acknowledge the existence of systemic racism within our society and our

organization, and to work to eradicate it.

### **OSSTF Provincial:** **Professional Learning Series for the Provincial Executive and Senior Staff**

In an effort to root out systemic racism within our organization and to put in place an action plan to address all forms of oppression and discrimination, Provincial Executive has sought the expertise of an external consultant with extensive experience in assisting organizations to make the culture shift necessary to challenge all forms of oppression and discrimination, but in particular, anti-Black racism. Kike Ojo-Thompson of the KOJO Institute recommended a six-week intensive professional learning series for the Provincial Executive and Senior Staff, which will be followed by a long-term action-oriented equity strategy to achieve measurable goals. The purpose of the series is to facilitate organizational culture change, support leadership in its new actions, and enable equitable outcomes for members.

### **Provincial OSSTF Statement against Racism and Donation to Black Lives Matter**

On June 1, OSSTF issued a public statement condemning all acts of anti-Black hate,

racism and discrimination. Then, at the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of OSSTF Provincial Council, representatives voted to donate \$10,000 to Black Lives Matter.

### **OSSTF Equity Officer**

There exists internal expertise within the Federation and OSSTF is making use of that. OSSTF has an Equity Officer whose role is to advise OSSTF on matters of equity relating to our membership, our organization and the broader education sector. The Equity Officer continues to work within OSSTF on issues of accountability and identifying the systemic barriers which exist in our Federation.

### **Addressing Anti-Black Racism Workshop**

A new workshop is being created by OSSTF in conjunction with the OSSTF/FEESO Equity Advisory Workgroup. The content of the workshop will include information on the origins and causes of anti-Black racism, types of overt and systemic anti-Black racism, and strategies for addressing them.

### **Allyship Workshop**

Another new workshop is being created by OSSTF in conjunction with the OSSTF/FEESO Equity Advisory Workgroup. The content of the workshop will include information on the existence of marginalized

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## Anti-Black Racism Efforts within OSSTF

groups within the education system and society and strategies on how to be a supportive ally.

### **OSSTF Local:**

#### **District 13 Donation to Local Grassroots Organization**

In June, District 13 Executive wanted to make a donation in support of local, grass-roots efforts to end anti-Black racism in our own community. To that end, District 13 made a \$1,500 donation to Brothers United Leadership Program which was conceived by a student out of Ajax High School. This mentorship program focuses on developing the leadership in young Black men within Durham. They provide resources and tools to these young men so that they are able to navigate through systems of oppression and racism. Even during the school closure period, the organization continued its activities in a virtual format.

#### **Professional Development for District 13 Executive and District Officers**

Throughout the spring and summer and into the fall, members of our District 13 Executive and District Officers have participated in various workshops, webinars and conferences with the goal of determining the concrete steps that can be taken to address systemic oppression. Some of

these include:

- *"What Are Unions Doing About Anti-Black Racism?"*: webinar provided through the CLC about the role that Canadian unions can and should play in the struggle for change.
- *OSSTF Summer Leadership*: multiple workshops provided as training for local leaders through OSSTF Provincial
- *How to Be an Anti-Racist: A Conversation with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi*: Professor Kendi discussed his renowned book "How to Be an Antiracist" with Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College.
- *The Culture Club*: bi-weekly virtual conversations about how to form, change and improve workplace culture
- *DDSB Ignite Unlearning Conference*: this series of workshops provided by the DDSB included excellent keynote addresses on anti-racism topics; learn more about these offering and others

in Kokhulani Yasodaran's article on anti-racism efforts within the DDSB and within our community on pages 10 and 11.

#### **Professional Development for District 13 Branch Reps**

District 13 has made a commitment to fight oppression through an ally capacity model. We recognize the need to engage and protect our members and students who are struggling under the current social/political climate. Your entire Executive has participated in a full day of anti-oppression training with the goal of extending this training to all of our Branch Presidents as well.

Under the facilitation of one of your own D13 colleagues who has made a career of anti-oppression/social activist work in education, the community and the private sector, participants will explore intersecting areas of marginalization, and develop strategies to help combat hate through an ally capacity model.

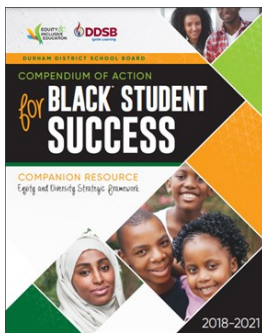
OSSTF has long fought to be on the side of right. We acknowledge that we need to do better and are working in order to live up to the equity values of the Federation. "When we know better... we do better."

# A Call for Action! OSSTF in Partnership with DDSB in Combating Anti-Black Racism in Durham!

**Kokhulani Yasodaran**  
*Communications Rep, Ajax HS*

We as educators have a passion and commitment to foster a learning environment that is inclusive and free from discrimination. Since earlier this year, there has been an increased global awareness

of how anti-Black racism is woven deep into the fabric of our society. In Durham, it's very much prevalent and Black children disproportionately continue to experience oppression, injustice and are silenced. According to **DDSB's Compendium of Action for Black Student Success**, Black students feel disengaged and disconnected in our schools because of a lack of recognition of systemic racism, low teacher expectations, low academic performance and fewer students pursuing post-secondary studies due to the barriers in education. There is a significant lack of Black representation in teaching staff, professional services and administration teams. Anti-Black racism is prevalent in our schools and it's time that we activate our Allyship with Black



members of our community. The realities of anti-Black racism has only recently been very visible and because of this, it's important that we as OSSTF members are responsive. We need to collectively take care of one another and stand in solidarity with the Black community who are speaking up against injustice, racism and oppression.

## **What's Happening in DDSB to Combat Anti-Black Racism**

There have been many initiatives and seminars that have been facilitated by DDSB's Equity and Inclusive Education Department, DDSB's Black Advisory Committee, DBEN (Durham Black Educators' Network) and other community agencies that continue to bring awareness of the extent of anti-Black racism experienced by students and staff in our schools with a focus on how to challenge anti-Black racism. In August 2020, DDSB's Equity and Inclusive Education Department, in collaboration with ETFO, OSSTF, DBEN and community members facilitated the **Ignite Unlearning: A**



**Summer Series of Critical Conversations** with a focus on unlearning and re-learning in critical and courageous conversations about the lived realities of students and families. Many seminars focused on combatting anti-Black racism in our schools. With over 1000 participants, many sessions were created by teachers, for teachers! OSSTF members in DDSB's Equity and Inclusive Education Department, DDSB's Black Advisory Committee and DBEN have been active and important participants of this work and advocate for Black youth.

I'm excited to say that there will be many more opportunities for our staff to begin their journey of challenging anti-Black racism. We are now in Year 3 of the implementation of action items drawn from the DDSB's Compendium of Action for Black Student Success, and this year will focus on creating partnerships and programs for Black youth and training around anti-Black racism, unconscious bias and oppression in Secondary Schools. For instance, DDSB will partner with DBEN to run full year tutoring programs in both elementary and high schools, and DBEN also ran a gap-closing Getting Ready for High School

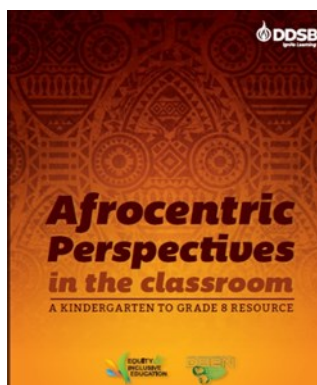
## A Call for Action!

Program for Black students. Secondary teachers who are teaching the Black Studies course (now implanted in over 12 High Schools), will create a committee to collectively create and develop Afrocentric pedagogy and will be provided the space and time to reflect on the realities experienced by students. For the past two years, anti-Black racism and

unconscious bias training was predominantly tailored to Kindergarten teachers and various administration teams. This year, OSSTF members in Guidance and Inclusive Student Services will be invited to attend anti-Black racism and unconscious bias training. This year, OSSTF is also in the process of developing two workshops for its members on

Allyship and combating anti-Black racism.

During these challenging times, it's imperative that we take the time to check our own biases, educate ourselves around the issues impacting the Black community and provide support to our colleagues and students impacted by anti-Black racism. Our community should be a safe place for children, and it's important as educators that we take the time to engage, listen, and actively participate in the various equity initiatives. Activate your Allyship and support your fellow OSSTF members!



## Student Achievement Awards



The Student Achievement Awards is a writing and creative arts competition which is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario. The competition is meant to encourage the intellectual development of our students and an interest in society.

OSSTF/FEESO invites student writers and artists to submit creative work exploring this year's theme: **Kindness is a Renewable Resource**. Judging will be held at the school, District, Regional and Provincial levels. Nine provincial winners will be awarded \$1000 each in prizes and will be invited to our Annual General Meeting in March where a video showcasing their work will be screened.

Please note that due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19 that all entries will be accepted digitally. The deadline for receiving entries to the District 13 Office is November 20, 2020.

## DAM, Better Late than Never!



**George Chaktsiris**  
*Communications Chair*

Normally we hold our District Annual Meeting (DAM) in May. Well that didn't happen with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, holding our DAM meeting is vital to the proper functioning of our union. In fact it is even required to be held by our District Constitution. Because of this, we are holding our 2020 DAM on Monday November 30, 2020 and it will be done virtually. Normally we would hold this event at a venue where we get to enjoy the company of others, have a nice meal, conduct the "business of the house" and have the

opportunity to meet and put faces to the names of those who dedicate their time to representing us. This business generally consists of amendments to our constitution which controls how we operate, honouring our colleagues who have the pleasure of retiring as well as welcoming our new members, and holding our annual elections.

This year, we will not be holding elections at DAM because the District Executive made the decision in the spring to hold the elections then with the assistance of Provincial OSSTF's online voting capabilities. All positions were acclaimed except for one and so we elected our Additional Provincial Councilor for the Teacher Bargaining Unit. We will however carry out the remaining business that needs

to be completed, including the amendments to our constitution. The good news is that all of the ground work was set up well before our original meeting was postponed. All of the motions and resolutions that comprise the business of the house had to be in prior to the March 2020 edition of INPRINT 13. Proposed amendments to the District and TBU constitution can be found on the district website under Useful Information - Collective Agreements and Constitutions - District and Bargaining Unit Constitutions.

I would encourage each of you to attend and take part in the democracy that is our federation. It is our federation and we do get to have our say every year at DAM. Stay tuned for more information about the specifics as the date approaches.

## How to protect your family from deadly, invisible gases

*Provided by OTIP*

Radon and carbon monoxide are poisonous gases that are odourless, colourless and tasteless, making them threats to the safety of your home. Exposure to high levels of radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, causing over 3,200 Canadian deaths each year<sup>1</sup>. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisonings in North America. By following the steps below and taking the proper precautions, you can help protect your home and family from these deadly gases.

To learn more, click here: [www.otipinsurance.com/article51](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article51)



## OTBU AGM 2020

The Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit held their postponed Annual General Meeting for 2020 on October 6, 2020. Both constitutional changes occurred and elections were held. The following members were elected to the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit for the 2020-2021 term:

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • President          | Avril Burns     |
| • 1st Vice-President | Mara Zalcmanis  |
| • 2nd Vice-President | Dick Woudenberg |
| • Treasurer          | Julia McCrea    |
| • AMPA Delegates     | Avril Burns     |
|                      | Dick Woudenberg |
|                      | Mara Zalcmanis  |

## Great News from R.S. McLaughlin CVI

Staff at MCVI started out the year with some welcome good news. OSSTF Rep Ryan Gordon, his wife Sonya and son Andrew celebrated the arrival of Simon Earl Alfred Gordon on July 14, 2020.

Simon is a healthy 7 lbs, 2 oz and is giving his Mom and Dad every reason to feel good about the upcoming year.

The staff at R.S. McLaughlin are very happy for Ryan, and are glad there is possibly one more Physics guru in the community.



### 10 common car insurance myths debunked

*Provided by OTIP*

**MYTH:** The type of car I drive has no impact on my insurance rates.

**FACT:** Yes, the type of car that you drive does indeed influence your car insurance rates.

Learn more at [www.otipinsurance.com/article49](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article49)



## Upcoming Events for D13—2020-2021 (as currently scheduled)

November 25, 2020	Maternity Leave Workshop, Virtual, 6:00 pm
November 26, 2020	New Teacher Workshop , Virtual, 9:00 am
November 30, 2020	District Annual Meeting 2020, Virtual, 5:30 pm
December 1, 2020	OTBU Social @ D13 Office, 5:00 pm
December 2, 2020	PSSP AGM 2020
January 12, 2021	OTBU Chat Night @ D13 Office, 5:00 pm
January 21, 2021	Provincial OSSTF PD Workshop
February 11, 2021	PSSP Open House, Virtual
February 12, 2021	Joint OSSTF/DDSB PD Day
February 15, 2021	Family Day Skate, details to TBD
February 18, 2021	Provincial OSSTF PD Workshop
February 24, 2021	Pink Shirt Day
March 25, 2021	Provincial OSSTF PD Workshop
April 28, 2021	Day of Mourning
May 2, 2021	Steps for Life, OPG Pickering
May 6, 2021	District Annual Meeting 2021
May 13, 2021	PSSP District Annual Meeting 2021
May 21, 2021	Student Award Night, details TBD
May 27, 2021	OTBU Annual General Meeting 2021
June 6, 2021	Durham Pride Parade, details TBD
June 11, 2021	District 13 Golf Tourney @ Lyndebrook Golf Course, 4:00 pm
June 27, 2021	Toronto Pride Parade, details TBD

### DISTRICT 13 OSSTF

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