# **INPRINT 13**



2022-2023 Volume 4

**March 2023** 

#### Can We Talk? Drowning Out Hate With Love!



# **Garrett Metcalfe** *District Representative*

Social justice activists have been warning us for years that the farright is gaining momentum and popularity globally. We have seen the hate and polarization play out in the media south of the border, often taking comfort in a false narrative that this could never happen here in Canada.

Guess what folx, hate (including membership in hate groups) has increased significantly here in Canada and the hate is right here in our own community.

Over the past year, we have seen homophobic and transphobic comments and social media posts attributed to one of our own DDSB trustees, Linda Stone. Even with these comments, she managed to get herself re-elected this fall, despite the collective efforts of District 13. A DDSB Integrity Commissioner report led the other trustees to find Linda

Stone guilty of violating their code of conduct six times, and to unanimously vote to censure her. With her being silenced at that table, we have seen her allies come from out of the woodwork. The trustee election demonstrated she had her local supporters, but now we know who they are!

Through Trustee Stone's social media, we got word that far -right group Action4Canada

was hosting a local event "Stop the Global titled Transgenderism Insanity on Our Children – Physiological Manipulation and Indoctrination the in Education System". And guess who one of their advertised guest speakers was? You got it, Trustee Linda Stone. District 13, ETFO Durham and DDSB went into action applied pressure to get the

While we were successful in having this initial rally cancelled, it quickly came to our attention that a partnership between Action4Canada and the Durham Region Freedom

hosting church to cancel

the event.

Fighters had developed, and a plan was in place to hold a rally outside of the DDSB and to disrupt the Board meeting. Their posters included words like "Stop Wynne's Ed/SCE curriculum and stop sexually exploiting children." They also reference the criminal code stating it is an "indictable offense"

**Editor: George Chaktsiris** 

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## Can We Talk? Drowning Out Hate With Love! (cont'd)

liable to imprisonment to exploit or expose minors to any form of pornography or sexually explicit materials or activities." This was just another blatant attack on the Queer community that is rooted in homophobia and transphobia. To be clear, the Queer community happens to be the target right now, but the Action4Canada website reveals they are opposed to all identity conversations in schools including anti-black racism. Like some of the political movements we see in American states such Florida. Action4Canada targets the education system and any curriculum that sits outside of language,

mathematics, and science. All of their attacks are in the name of protecting Canadian values.

The Queer community reached out asking for support and trade unions including ETFO, OSSTF, CUPE and multiple others stepped up to organize a counter-rally of love to send the message to our Queer students that we are here for them! A call out was made and the community and their allies overwhelmingly responded.

Inside the DDSB boardroom, all 83 seats were filled by our supporters ensuring the protestors were unable to get in and disrupt with their hate. Outside, more than 300 folk showed up to drown out the hate with love and positivity. Waving flags, the community and their allies were dancing in the street in support of our Queer youth and sending the clear message that hate does not belong!

District 13 OSSTF would like to thank all of our members, the community partners and labour organizations for coming together so quickly and sending a clear message of peace and inclusivity. We collectively drowned out their hate with love!

#### **Counter-Rally of Love:**

#### We Packed The Board Room!









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# **Counter-Rally of Love:**

#### We Danced in the Street—Here for Queer Youth!





















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# Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development – Workplace Violence Initiative



# Richard McCormack District Representative

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) been conducting a workplace violence initiative in the education sector from April 2022 to March 2023, with an inspection blitz taking place this February and March. Each year, the MLITSD plans initiatives to raise awareness about specific workplace hazards and enforce compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) on those specific hazards. This initiative is focused on three areas: 1) measures and procedures for preventing workplace violence during transitions; 2) provisions of information, instruction, and (including supervision occasional workers); and 3) workplace violence risk assessments and reassessments.

The MLITSD has scheduled a field visit to 10 schools in the Durham District School Board. Of these ten schools, three are secondary schools: Dunbarton High School, J. Clarke

Richardson Collegiate and Maxwell Heights Secondary School.

The **MLITSD** held consultation meeting with the Board and the Joint Health & Safety Committee (JHSC) worker members. At that meeting, it was determined that the school administrator, a DDSB Health & Safety department staff, a JHSC representative management JHSC and а worker representative would be present for the school visits. The MLITSD indicated that it wanted to speak with workers in the building, but this has not been common practice at the school visits. District 13 OSSTF believes that having a worker representative from the school present for the full inspection is valuable.

In these meetings, the JHSC worker representatives have been able to ask questions and add input regarding violent incident reports that have been received from the school, the school workplace violence risk assessment, student behaviour safety plans, student briefs, behaviour management system training for staff, along with any other information that has been gathered from conversations with workers at the schools.

During each school visit, the administration school has demonstrated competency when responding to questions from the Ministry inspectors. As a result, the filed visits have not resulted in any orders for the employer from the MLITSD. Provincial OSSTF has been compiling the results from field visits from sites across the province and these also indicate minimal orders have been provided to employers. In the DDSB, it is evident that the school Admin have been very well prepared for these visits. With any inspection, preparation that occurs ahead of it brings a worthwhile outcome. Since these visits have demonstrated that the employer is competent around workplace violence, we will expect this to carry over to everyday applications when school administrators deal with incidents of workplace violence.

# Where is President Waldo?

To reward our eagle-eyed readers, the first 5 members to find President Waldo and send an email to Ruth Leone at ruth.leone@d13.osstf.ca identifying his location will receive a D13 prize!

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#### **AMPA Report**

# Matt Thomas *AMPA Delegate*

Humbly I submit my musings which were recorded during and after my attendance at AMPA 2023 over the first weekend of March Break, my sixth time as a delegate for D13.

President Karen Littlewood set an appropriate tone in her opening remarks, emphasizing collective strength and the need to remain united as we are in constant struggle with a hostile provincial government. Their to agenda appears to be undermine essential services underfunding through and refusing to negotiate in good faith. Littlewood pointed out a repeated pattern of the Ford government: making unconstitutional decrees which are promptly overturned in the courts when we challenge them, but which are subsequently (and wastefully) appealed by the government. Their aim appears to be to continue to push against our collective vigilance in the hopes of degrading the public education system in order to seek privatization as a way to "solve" a problem they are actively creating. To have this so clearly demonstrated by our president at the onset of the meeting was a "cri de coeur" to all members that unless we active are and participate in challenging our MPPs in our ridings, we are risking complacently supporting a government bent on ruining what

has taken years to build - a publicly funded education system which is the envy of many other states around the world.

Being the first in-person AMPA since 2019, the mood was cautiously celebratory with a recognition of the important improvements in equity and decolonization still necessary in our federation (and across **Equity-focused** Canada). caucusing went on all weekend outside of the conduct of "business", involving heavily dedicated members (and volunteers) from across Ontario showing the commitment that exists to improve our practice and set standards in inclusivity.

Much of the first morning was recognizing spent student achievement in giving awards in honour of Marion Drysdale. From across Ontario, students created powerful and moving works on the assigned theme, "I am everything you say I am not". A cynic might view this as a self-congratulatory act. But I found it to be deeply moving and profound simply in the sense that these achievements were really only about what students thought and felt and created, and it made me think practice about mγ own professionally. To see what a motivated truly student. regardless of any exterior factors, can produce astonishing and made me reflect that sometimes only a simple gesture of recognition and encouragement can mean so much for our students.

Voting at AMPA this year was modernized with the introduction of "clickers", intended to render precise results on votes for motions and elections. The old way was likely in practice for the first hundred years of our existence, and there appeared to be those in the room whose opinion was "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". After much nitpicking and consternation (which might have actually been a case of political protesting or malicious compliance), we carried out elections which returned a group of leaders very capable of seeing us through the year to come.

As AMPA wrapped on Monday afternoon. a difficult scene unfolded which demonstrated again that we have much work to do to achieve true equity and that even well-intentioned people have the capacity. through their learned behaviours and subtleties of language, to commit harm and must recognize that there is learning to be done.

I will conclude by saying that it is always great to reconnect with fellow AMPA delegates, former D13 leaders now working for the provincial office in a variety of capacities, and the once-a-year friends from far-flung places like Thunder Bay. It's always an honour to represent the members in Durham.

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#### **AGM Election Ads**

#### **Shane Stagg for District and TBU President**



- Strength of Character
- Integrity
- Dedicated to Supporting Members
- Committed to Equity and Anti-Oppression

Let's strengthen our future together!

It has been a tremendous honour to serve members of District 13 over the past year. With your continued support, I look forward to serving you into the future.

Members expect and deserve a president that is committed to the role. I take the responsibility very seriously and remain dedicated to representing individuals and the entire membership.

Both as TBU President, and as District President, I am proud to work with, and for, such a dedicated group of education professionals.

Together with dedicated branch representatives, a vibrant District Executive, a talented team at the District Office, and a membership devoted to public education, we are ready to take on the challenges ahead.

#### Please re-elect Shane Stagg for District and TBU President.

District and TBU President
Chair of District Executive
Chair of District Council
Chair of Joint Employee Relations Committee

Chair of Constitution Committee
Co-Chair of Political Action Committee
Grievance Officer
Provincial Councillor

#### **Proven Leadership**

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#### Re-Elect George Chaktsiris for District 13 Vice President



### We are better Together!

District Vice President 2020-Present District Executive 2018-Present **Branch President** 2014-Present Chair of Communications 2018-Present Constitution Committee 2019-Present **DAM Chair of Elections** 2012-2020 2011-2014 PAC/EPAC 2007-2013 2018-Present Provincial Leadership AMPA Delegate/Alternate 2014-Present **DAM Steering** 2020 Strike Captain



Dedicated

Bargaining Team Member

Experienced Knowledgeable

## **RE-ELECT Chris Davis for Vice President**



## **Forward Together!**

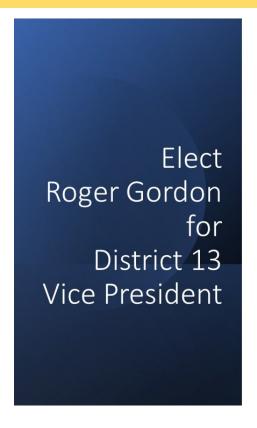
Thoughtful, Committed Leadership

#### **Experience**

Current District Vice President Current Local Bargaining Team Current AMPA Delegate Current Human Rights Committee Former Communications Committee

**Advocacy • Inclusion • Progress** 

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- Political Action Representative for Henry Street 2007-Present
- Two-Time AMPA delegate - 2022 and 2023
- Black Advisory Committee 2021-Present
- Will defend local educational issues
- Will listen and support member concerns around mental health, equity, social justice, stress and workload
- Will work with Executive to make a differences for all District 13 members





Re-Elect
Rob Walker
for
Vice President

## For Experienced, Principled Leadership

- Currently Vice President, District 13 Executive
- Currently Branch President, Uxbridge SS
- Formerly, Secretary, District 13 and 17 Executive
- Formerly, Health & Safety Rep., Uxbridge SS
- Formerly, Collective Bargaining Rep., Uxbridge SS
- Formerly, District 13 AMPA Delegate 1991–2004

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# Re-Elect NICOLE BLÉAU For District Treasurer



COMPETENT

DEDICATED

RESPONSIBLE

Experience you can trust

# Re-Elect NICOLE BLÉAU For Additional TBU Provincial Councillor



EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP
YOU CAN TRUST

#### TBU AMPA DELEGATES

Number to be elected is determined by FTE number of our membership

Nicole Bléau

**George Chaktsiris** 

**Chris Davis** 

Ryan Gallagher

Roger Gordon

Jason Himsl

Richard McCormack

Marcia McCrae

Garrett Metcalfe

**Matthew Thomas** 

Kokhulani Yasodaran



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# Resolutions to Amend the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy of District 13 OSSTF and District 13 OSSTF TBU 2023

According to our Constitution, the on-time resolutions to amend the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy of District 13 OSSTF and District 13 OSSTF TBU must be published to the membership at least 5 weeks in advance of the District Annual Meeting.

Please visit this link to access the proposed on-time amendments: <a href="www.d13.osstf.ca/resolutions">www.d13.osstf.ca/resolutions</a>

# Save the date for Annual General Meetings

	May 2023												
		1		2		3		4	District 13 Annual General Meeting	5		6	
7		8		9		10		11	PSSP Annual General Meeting	12		13	
14		15		16		17		18	OTBU Annual General Meeting	19		20	
21		22		23		24		25		26		27	
28		29		30		31							

# Planning for Retirement When it's Ten Years, Five Years,

and One Year Away

#### **Provided by OTIP**

Planning for retirement but don't know where to start? You're not alone. Here are some action items you can take as your retirement date draws closer.



Read more at www.otip.com/article160

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#### A Heartfelt Response to Member Donations

At our D13 Family Day Skate, members were asked to bring cash donations or donated items to support our community. District 13 decided

to send those donations to the food bank and pantry hosted at DASS Oshawa for their students to access. This letter was submitted in thanks by a DASS Teacher who was touched by the generosity of our members and the work of the Union.

Dear District 13.

I get emotional in the most beautiful way before I think about what to write. When feelings precede words, I know it's my heart speaking.

Thank you District 13, for sending the ever humble and caring Richard McCormack armed with non-perishables and, as one student noted, "bougie" hygiene products I was walking towards my car yesterday when I saw Richard unloading his trunk with boxes and bags.

I was so happy to see him, let alone learn why he was at our main site. As it turns out, he was delivering the items collected at the D13 Family Day Skate.

D13, thank you so much for these donations. Durham Alternative Secondary is as dear to my heart as is D13. We have a wide variety of services to support our community and its incredible students. Visible and invisible poverty continues to grow and, as it does at DASS, so do the generous hearts of our community. Before Richard headed to the office with the

cash donations, we unloaded the goodies outside our grocery room.

One story stands out the One of the donated most. items was a 3 piece, large volume set of a high quality hair care line. A student came along and they discovered it was shampoo, conditioner and treatment product, all from the same line, of the same brand, in such containers. big Ones many of us never think twice about.

Every day, I have so many moments that check my privilege. My gosh, that moment will stand out for a long time.

"Laura," they exclaimed, "it's all from the same (line/brand). I've never had that before!"

I wish I could articulate what this gift set meant to this student. I cannot and I won't even try. Their tone, expression, body language, the joy in their eyes... the only thing my heart could suggest at the time was taking a picture and writing this letter, so that it may be shared with members.

Thank you for putting the "Family" in Family Day for the many students you have reached and will reach in the coming days with these gifts.

Yours in federation,
-Laura Michaluk



Richard McCormack, D13 Representative delivering the donations to DASS Oshawa. Page 12 District 13

#### Kitchen Korner

# Heather Tyrrell Communications Rep. J. Clarke Richardson

There are celebrations going on right now and coming up all over the world. The most common theme with these celebrations is **FOOD**. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. At the end of Ramadan, there's a big three-day celebration called Eid al-Fitr, or the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Then there is Easter (which I celebrate),

which is also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, which is a Christian festival and cultural holiday celebrated with family, community and food. I will have my family over for a lovely homemade meal and share in some nice conversation and maybe even some chocolate. The most popular item for the Easter celebration is the Hot Cross Bun. I am going to share a link to a recipe that I will be making this year along with a few others that are my family's favorites.

Wishing you the best for you and yours.

#### **Hot Cross Buns:**

https:// daysofjay.com/2023/03/25/hotcross-buns/

#### **Scalloped Potatoes:**

https:// www.spendwithpennies.com/ scalloped-potatoes-recipe/

#### **Roasted Brussel Sprouts:**

https:// www.onceuponachef.com/ recipes/roasted-brusselssprouts.html

#### **Today's Tip**

Invest in a good set of digital scales. Not only does it mean you can be super accurate with your measurements, but you can also save on cleaning up. Weigh all your dry ingredients into the same bowl, one at a time, taking the scales back to zero after each addition.

#### **Today's Funny**

"If you are what you eat, then you might as well eat something good." -Ratatouille

As always, if you have any questions about cooking or baking, please feel free to email me (<a href="mailto:heather.tyrrell@ddsb.ca">heather.tyrrell@ddsb.ca</a>) and I will be happy to help you along!!

-Chef Tyrrell-

#### Attention D13 Members—PD Funding

The D13 PD Committee provides up to \$100 to members who attend conferences or workshops or take non-credit courses as self-directed professional development. Apply using the PD request form by June 1st.

http://www.d13.osstf.ca/pdfunding

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### Moral Injury and its Effects on Education Workers

# Marcia McCrae EPAC Co-Chair

Moral injury may be an unfamiliar phrase to education workers. lt refers to the emotional, psychological and mental harm experienced by people who witness, experience or are expected to participate in actions that violate deeply held moral or ethical values. Its effects have been studied by mental health professionals on its impact on military service members who experienced as a result of serving.

In the last 10 years, researchers have also examined its effect on education workers. One of the most recent studies on it was conducted by Erin P. Sugrue, of Augsburg University which was published in 2020 in the American Education Research Journal. lt examined the outcomes of repeated moral injuries experienced bv secondary and elementary teachers and other education workers in an urban school district in the American Midwest.

What does that have to do with you or me, as education workers in Ontario? Quite a bit! Moral injuries often stem from educational workers being expected to implement policies that they know do not help students or their families in the short or long term, policies that

create an unsafe environment for students or employees, or in witnessing those types of policies being implemented. In Ontario, these policies often come from fads in education that are not well supported by education research. They can also be prompted by a lack of resources and staffing support. For those who have devoted their lives, expertise energy to our publicly-funded education system, these fads and ill-conceived policies are more than just troubling. They represent an existential threat to the work we have devoted vears to.

Unsurprisingly, repeated moral over time causes emotional and psychological distress in educators, which manifests in many ways: feeling anxious. sad. demoralized, guilty, feeling shame about decisions made by self or others that aren't in the best interests of students, loss of identity, betrayal by those in leadership, loss of trust in those in power in our organizations or government, increased rage or anger, outbursts, reduced empathy, not wanting to interact with others, problems sleeping, relationship problems, increased use of alcohol or other substances to manage stress and depression and suicidal ideation. It can also

look like crying in the parking lot before or after school, the Sunday Night Dreads, or the bad feeling in your stomach before the day starts. The end result of these repeated injuries is low morale, а sense of hopelessness, burnout and the walking away from profession. As a profession, we cannot afford to lose any more well-trained, caring educators.

I suspect at this juncture, you are already thinking of a colleague who has expressed this to you or perhaps you are realizing that this describes what you are feeling these days. have had multiple conversations with educational workers across this board and across this province about this issue. It's not just you. It's not just YOUR school. It's happening across the country and in other similar educational jurisdictions like the US and UK.

So what do we do? How do we respond to this challenge? On a personal level, if you are experiencing the effects of moral injury, I urge you to take care of yourself. Put your own oxygen mask on first. We've heard ad nauseam the importance of self-care. whether it's making sure you are sleeping well, eating food that nourishes you, or engaging behaviours other rejuvenate you. There is also

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#### Moral Injury and its Effects on Education Workers (cont'd)

the option of seeking assistance from a mental health professional, either through your own personal benefits or using something like Starling Mind. Mental health professionals are equipped to help you heal and move forward.

You are not alone. We are here for you. Members are encouraged to reach out to their local union reps or the District

Office for support or to share their concerns.

On a larger scale, there are other options. One of the more difficult aspects of moral injury is that it leaves sufferers feeling like they have no control over their careers or workplaces and that they are alone in what they are experiencing. You are not alone in your experience.

Working with other educators combat these policies, whether it is through local union work on branch executive, committees or other groups can do much to alleviate the sense helplessness unhappiness. I encourage you consider getting more involved in the efforts OSSTF is undertaking to combat these policies. You won't regret it.

#### Cirque du Soleil CRYSTAL

The Cirque du Soleil CRYSTAL event is coming to the Tribute Communities Centre in Oshawa December 7—10, 2023. They are offering to educators discounts on your tickets by entering the code found on the poster. Tickets can be purchased in-person, by phone or online.







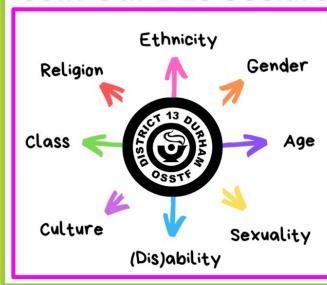
CAREpath provides support for our Permanent **Teachers** and their families when they are faced with a diagnosis new or a recurrent diagnosis of cancer. The support also includes a cancer survivor support program which can assess health risks order to reduce the risk of If you, your spouse or recurrence. 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

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## **Anti-Oppression and Social Justice**

#### Join Our D13 Social Justice Collective!



All rights and equity seeking members are invited to come together to support one another and advocate for social justice change!

A Place For Identities To INTERSECT!

Reach out to Garrett in the D13 Office For More Information

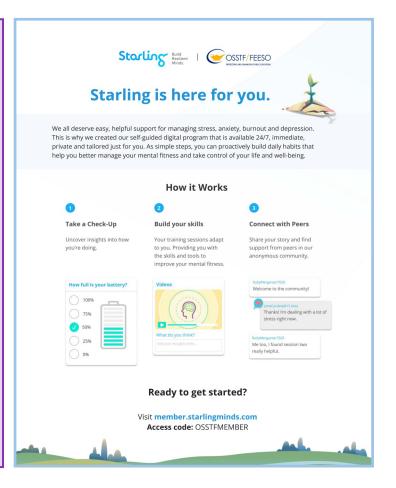
#### **LifeWorks**

LifeWorks counselling service is available through the OTIP LTD contract for Permanent Teachers. On an annual (calendar year) basis, you can access up to 12 hours of free face-to-face psychosocial counselling for you and your immediate family members. LifeWorks can assist you with work-related, family, personal or dependency problems. At this time, sessions are also available via distance options. As well, there are other webbased services available.

LifeWorks is mentioned on the District 13 website and in each newsletter.

To access LifeWorks, download the app or visit otiptl.lifeworks.com.

Log in with the username and password below:
Login: Lifeworks1 Password: @OTIPTL123



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#### **Upcoming Events for D13—2022-2023 (as currently scheduled)**

Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop, 4:15-6:15 pm at the D13 Office
Contact Nicole.Bleau@d13.osstf.ca to register
Day of Mourning
District & TBU Annual General Meeting 2023, Ajax Convention Centre details TBD
Steps for Life, 10 am, details TBD
PSSP Annual General Meeting 2023, details TBD
World Education Support Personnel Day
Student Award Night, details TBD
OTBU Annual General Meeting 2023, details TBD
Durham Pride Parade, details TBD
District 13 Golf Tourney @ Lyndebrook Golf Course, details TBD
Deceiving Divas, 8 pm, Oshawa Legion, details TBD
Toronto Pride Parade, details TBD



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