

President's Report



Shane Stagg
D13 TBU President

It continues to be a tremendous honour and my pleasure to serve as both your District and Teacher Bargaining Unit president. It is a responsibility that I have held very seriously since 2020.

My role as your president is to ensure that the District and Bargaining Unit functions according to how members want to be represented. District 13 has a proud history of connection with its members. Through committees and a vibrant Council, workplace representatives bring forward the voice of membership. Individual members as well reach out to provide valuable updates and share priorities. What members expect is for their working conditions to be protected, for the collective agreement to be followed, and for the employer to be accountable for its responsibilities to keep workers safe. They expect collective bargaining that reflects their priorities. They want meaningful professional development. They

want to be well-represented with the public. They expect the District to support equity and anti-oppression. I'm happy to report that these expectations have been, and continue to serve as direction to the work of the District.

This past year brought with it the challenge and promise of collective bargaining. When prompted by Provincial Office, the membership wisely chose to adopt a pathway that prevented disruption to teaching and learning while offering the strength of arbitration to reach a fair deal. This arrangement has provided a provincial remedy in response to the unconstitutional Bill 124 with retro-active pay to members. It was also applied to reach a new central collective agreement. Locally, the prospect of arbitration was a powerful asset at the bargaining table. It allowed the three bargaining units of TBU, OTBU and PSSP to negotiate improvements for members while protecting against strips brought forth by the employer.

What continues to be an ongoing concern for members are issues related to the code

of conduct. Members indicate that unruly behaviour which disrupts the learning environment needs to be

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President's Report (cont'd)

addressed. This has been made clear during visits to worksites, council meeting, and individual reports from members. This prompted a shared campaign with our affiliate colleagues of ETFO and CUPE to gather responses from members through postcards. They were asked to share why a code of conduct that promotes a safe and respectful working and learning environment is important to them. The responses are powerful and remarkable. Consistent themes appear of concern for the safety and wellbeing of both staff and students. These are being shared with DDSB trustees and senior administrators to prompt action that supports the future of public education in Durham.

This past year has also required us to confirm our commitment to supporting those who are

oppressed or marginalized. The labour movement has historically been leaders of social justice and we are proud to continue this work. In the face of episodes of hate in the community, District 13 has been there in defence of those in need of allies. Whether it's community events, the DDSB Boardroom, parades, or the sidewalk, District 13 is there to deliver a message of respect and inclusion. Everybody has the right to feel safe in their school, workplace, and community.

The president does not stand alone. I'm grateful to have the greatest of support. Our colleagues on the Executive team are dedicated and capable. The TBU representatives of Richard McCormack, Garrett Metcalfe and Orit Orlovsky bring a

tremendous set of skills and wisdom to the work they do. Our Office Manager, Ruth Leone, provides a critical backbone to bargaining unit operations. I thank them all for what they continue to bring. I offer thanks as well to Provincial Office. Both the elected executive team and the staff team have been responsive to the needs of our members, and I am grateful to be able to rely on them.

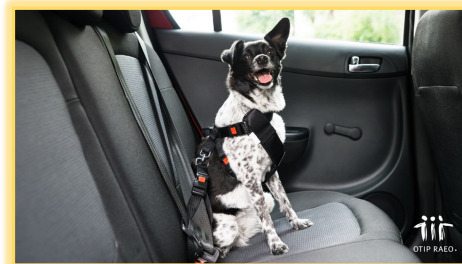
Most of all, I thank you, the members. Our strength is derived from your strength, our resolve is your resolve, and our commitment is defined by you. The union is not separate from the membership - the membership *is* the union. I'm proud to say that our union is strong, and I am honoured to be your president.

What You Need to Know About Driving With Pets and Auto Insurance

Provided by OTIP

It's not unusual to spot a dog's head or nose sticking out of the window of a passing car – having the wind blow through their fur and taking in all sorts of scents. It can be an exhilarating experience, and it's no wonder they enjoy it.

On the other hand, a driver caught with a dog in their lap may be in for an expensive surprise. According to the Ontario Provincial Police, there isn't a specific charge for having a dog in your lap, but it could be considered a crowding the driver's seat charge.



Read more at www.otip.com/article183. #OTIPUpdate

Celebrating Retirees at the AGM

In keeping with a District 13 tradition, we recognized those retirees who were able to attend the 2024 General Annual Meeting held this year back at Sikorski Hall. It is always a highlight of the AGM to celebrate the outstanding careers of our members and wish them all the best in retirement.

Congratulations to all D13 TBU and PSSP Retirees!



Shane Stagg, Susan Shoemaker,
Christina Kalianteris



Shane Stagg, Carolyn Tsai,
Jason Himsl



Shane Stagg, Bill Blackmore,
Melissa Waddington



Shane Stagg, Brenda Hopper, Kathie Harris



Shane Stagg, George O'Toole, Julie Gladman, Mike Kramer

Indigenous Histories Month

Michelle Evans

D13 member

On May 28th, Sol Mamakwa made history by addressing the Ontario Legislature in Anishiniimowin (Oji-Cree), marking the first time a language other than English or French was permitted in the chamber.

Mamakwa, an NDP member, commemorated the event with his mother and other family and community members, a particularly poignant moment given his experience in residential schools. This event signifies a notable shift in Ontario's legislative rules, though further changes are needed to fully honor Survivors and their experiences as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

The TRC's final report, released in 2015, serves as a roadmap for reconciliation, drawing from the testimonies of Survivors. It lays out clear directives, particularly in Calls to Action 62-65, which extend invitations for action to various sectors including education, justice, child welfare, and corporations. However, a report from the Yellowhead Institute in 2023 revealed that 81 of the 94 Calls to Action remain unfulfilled, with none addressed that year. Despite this discouraging trend, the upcoming Indigenous Histories

month, coinciding with Pride month in June, presents an opportune moment to reexamine and recommit to these crucial actions.

Here are some ideas for your consideration:

- Revisit the TRC. Our personal learning and growth can deepen our understanding of documents we may have read previously.
- Remember that Indigenous peoples are everywhere and are colleagues and students. Some will fit the stereotypes presented in the media and many will not.
- Find Indigenous people within the areas of your life that bring you joy. For example, if you love sports there are lots of incredible Indigenous athletes. If music is your passion there are lots of current Indigenous musicians to support.
- Many Indigenous people will be more than happy to share their personal stories with colleagues and many will prefer to stay under the radar. Pay attention to their subtle cues to indicate whether they wish people to know about their identity.
- A great film to build context is called Colonization Road (link in resources) which may introduce you to Indigenous scholars, comics and artists.

As we honor Indigenous Histories month, it's essential to acknowledge the ongoing resistance and resilience of Indigenous communities, fostering deeper understanding and meaningful actions toward reconciliation.

Resources:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/mpp-sol-mamakwa-oji-cree-ontario-legislature-1.7216763>

<https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=527189&p=3604066>

Resources:

[Yellowhead Institute Report](#)

[NCTR Records](#)

<https://yellowheadinstitute.org/>

https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/01/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

[Colonization Road](#)



Celebrating and Honouring Indigenous Excellence Competition 2024

Cheryl Thompson *D13 member*

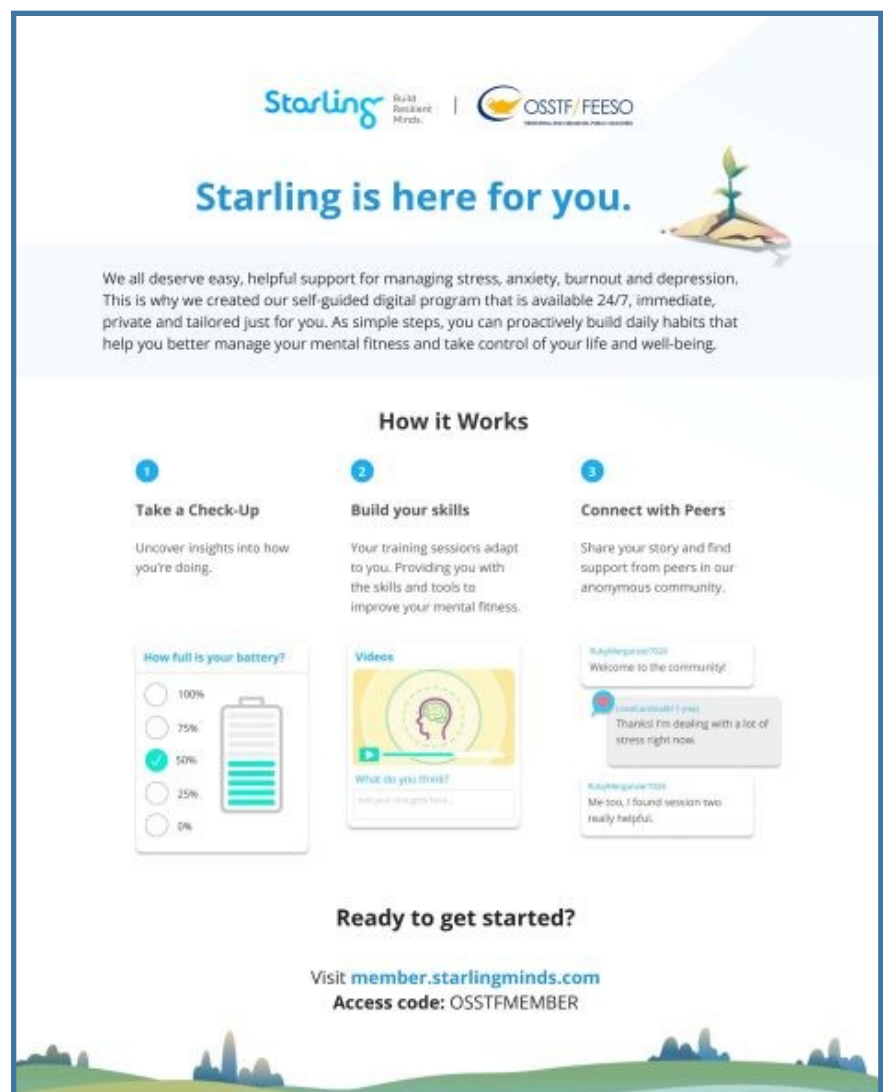
In recognition of National Indigenous History Month, which is celebrated annually in June in Canada, the D13 Human Rights Committee partnered with the DDSB Indigenous Education Department to run a competition for Indigenous students. The Celebrating and Honouring Indigenous Excellence Competition 2024 provided Indigenous students with the opportunity to showcase their gifts by contributing a creative submission that honoured Indigeneity in one of four categories: creative writing, performance, arts, and multimedia presentation.

The competition, which was launched in mid-April, was a resounding success with Indigenous students from across the district submitting entries that demonstrated what being Indigenous means to them. Submissions came in many different forms including poetry, short stories, artwork, beadwork, jewellery, regalia, and dance performances. All submissions were outstanding and highlighted just how proud Indigenous students in the district are of their diverse cultures. The D13 Human Rights Committee and the DDSB

Indigenous Education Department met at the end of May to review the submissions. A prize of \$600 was shared amongst participants with everyone also receiving a gift certificate to the Oshawa Centre.

The goal is for the Celebrating and Honouring Indigenous Excellence Competition to become an annual event

organised by the newly formed D13 Indigenous Advisory Committee in partnership with the DDSB Indigenous Education Department. Plans for next year's competition are already underway. It is hoped that in future years participants will gather together at one of the DDSB Outdoor Environmental Education Centres in early June to showcase and celebrate their work.



Starling Build Resilient Minds. | **OSSTF/FEESO** Ontario Secondary Teachers' Federation / Fédération des enseignants de l'Ontario

Starling is here for you.

We all deserve easy, helpful support for managing stress, anxiety, burnout and depression. This is why we created our self-guided digital program that is available 24/7, immediate, private and tailored just for you. As simple steps, you can proactively build daily habits that help you better manage your mental fitness and take control of your life and well-being.

How it Works

- 1 Take a Check-Up**
Uncover insights into how you're doing.
- 2 Build your skills**
Your training sessions adapt to you. Providing you with the skills and tools to improve your mental fitness.
- 3 Connect with Peers**
Share your story and find support from peers in our anonymous community.

How full is your battery?

100%
75%
50%
25%
0%

Videos

What do you think?
Welcome the great work.

Join the community!
Welcome to the community!

Join the community!
Thank! I'm dealing with a lot of stress right now.

Join the community!
Me too, I found session two really helpful.

Ready to get started?

Visit member.starlingminds.com
Access code: OSSTFMEMBER

Can We Talk? Happy Pride!



Garrett Metcalfe
D13 TBU Representative

Identity, drag, and unionism

Surrounded by sequins, hair spray, wigs, costumes, jewellery, and yes... lots of duct tape—Joane Rivers and the Deceiving Divas were anxious but ready to hit the stage two year's ago at OSSTF/FEESO's Provincial Summer Leadership conference in a ball room at the Westin Harbour Castle. Joane Rivers is my drag persona; Joan Rivers has always been an idol of mine and a long-time hero/ally to the Queer community. She was advocating long before it became trendy.

This was not our normal crowd full of Queers with empty shot glasses on the tables before the show even started. This wasn't the usual crowd with loud outbursts of vulgarity. This was not going to be a regular Saturday night show. For Joane Rivers, it was also the night the two professional worlds met in a very public way. The world of Garrett the educator of 20 years and Garrett the drag performer of 15 years were about to collide. Two

To celebrate Pride Month, I decided to bring back an article I wrote for Education Forum magazine published on November 8, 2022 on my experiences as my drag persona, community political activism, role as an educator and union work all collided. What a journey it has been... Happy Pride Month To All!



worlds that had been kept apart out of fear and necessity were coming together and I was terrified but ready.

The audience was politely chatting, the house lights dimmed and the show's first character, Marilyn Monroe, appeared on the stage to warm the crowd up. There was a quiet gasp and then mesmerized silence. The other queens began to panic—yelling to Joane, “they hate us” and, “this is going to be a long night.” I assured them that they just think they are at the theatre and are being super polite. “Don't worry,” I said... “Joane will warm them up.” Inside however, I was experiencing my own panic and internal conflict. Years of hiding my identities and the homophobia I've experienced within the education system had come to this moment. Deep breathe... the show must go on!

Following the polite applause for Marilyn, Joane Rivers exploded on the stage with a mission—to push boundaries, make statements, and invite

OSSTF/FEESO to experience just a glimpse of my world and Queer culture.

Unapologetically, Joane gave permission for us all to have a good time while challenging our boundaries and norms. Joane extended an invite to a mainly cisgender/straight audience to play, for just a night, in a world of edgy humour rooted out of oppression. An invitation to experience Queer camp was extended and the audience embraced it with open arms. This was going to be a FUN night!

In traditional Joane fashion... can we talk? Can we talk about a community that has experienced so much homophobia and transphobia for decades? Can we talk about a community that survived the politics of an AIDS epidemic? Can we talk about a community that continues to face police brutality, hate legislation and must fight to provide safe spaces for 2SLGBTQI+ youth? Can we talk about a teacher who was closeted, living multiple secretive lives, and who

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Can We Talk? Happy Pride! (cont'd)

eventually found a safe landing place in OSSTF/FEESO?

Our ability to survive often stems out of the creation of a Queer culture referred to as “camp.” When we have had to laugh or cry, the Queer community usually chooses laughter. We are a marginalized group that uses self-deprecating humour, over-exaggeration, and the stereotypes of oppression to push the boundaries of mainstream norms and values. Through humour, we make very strong social/political statements about gender binaries. Joane Rivers had welcomed the audience into this Queer culture for a night. Garrett was frightened to allow the two worlds to collide.

It was a long journey getting to this moment. Thirty years ago, I was a closeted gay man that married his high school sweetheart and had two children. I was still in university and was desperately trying to hide my identity by being as straight as possible. For this first few years of my career, I continued this charade and was completely closeted with all colleagues and students. Internalized homophobia paralyzed all aspects of my life.

My entire career has always been rooted in anti-oppression work and in those early years, I

found myself working tirelessly fighting racism while completely burying my own identity needs. The early 90s were cruel times for Queer educators. Hearing stories of gay colleagues who had been fired from the local Catholic Board, hearing blatant homophobia from students and colleagues only further closeted me in fear. Internalized homophobia is powerful and soul destroying. I was also navigating the conflict I felt in fighting for human rights while ignoring my own oppression and the oppression of my gay students. This internal conflict eventually pushed me to come out when I was 29.

I came out in a big way. Within a couple of years I was out to all family and all colleagues and students. I shifted my anti-oppression activism to all things gay while also exploring my own Queer identity. In doing so, I quickly found myself living another closeted life as a drag queen performer. By day I was fighting the homophobia of colleagues, students, and an education system determined to destroy me, and by night I was on stage performing in fear that the worlds would collide.

I guarantee there isn't a Queer educator out there that couldn't share story upon story of the homophobia they have experienced at work. I've had

parents remove students from my class and administrators who supported that decision. I've had verbal and physical threats to my safety from students. I've had vandalism to my home and car at the hands of students. I've experienced female colleagues who felt safety in my sexual orientation as grounds to physically touch me at work which I had to explain to them was never appropriate.

I've had male colleagues avoid me at work spaces and one who informed me that “they don't judge me for being gay because that was God's job.” I've had many colleagues ask me to “tone it down” and even an administrator who told me that I needed to leave the gay at home and stop forcing my gay agenda at work.

As a social justice activist, the systemic homophobia within education has been even more frightening. During the early days of my career while trying to establish Gay/Straight Alliances, I was informed that if I continued with this “agenda” my job would be in jeopardy. I've led an entire career faced with systemic obstacle after obstacle that has limited my professional growth. Once, I was explicitly informed that another gay guy in the job position was not required. I often found

Can We Talk? Happy Pride! (cont'd)

myself on the opposite side of the table advocating for Queer rights for students while administrators fighting the changes were closeted themselves. I've had secretive relationships with closeted Queer administrators, senior administrators, and even politicians. I couldn't make this stuff up if I tried.

While facing these challenges at work, I was escaping to the Queer culture of drag under the spotlight at night. It was my opportunity to fully explore my creativity and Queer identity but it came at the expense of finding myself closeted and living in fear once again—a constant fear of students, parents, and my employer finding out. I would find myself performing with anonymity in drag while looking out to an audience that often was made up of my own closeted colleagues, parents of students, and yes... sometimes the very administrators threatening my job during the day. These were very confusing and fearful times, filled with anxiety.

Our identities are complex and extremely important for all of us. When we find ourselves forced to hide identities and we can't be truly authentic in all spaces, it creates significant harm. It also does a huge disservice to our own students who are desperately looking to see themselves in the mentors and

institutions around them. For years, I couldn't find that safe space as an educator and I was letting my students down at the same time. We were all experiencing trauma and harm.

Slowly, over time, these two worlds of educator and performer began to meet each other. My social activism as a performer hosting youth pride proms met with OSSTF/FEESO District 13 (Durham) who was sponsoring the event. I found myself performing for youth in a space where District 13 leadership were present watching the show. While we never spoke directly about it, I was beginning to develop a trust with my union. I was becoming aware that the Federation was doing work supporting 2SLGBTQI+ youth and this spoke volumes for me about a possible safe space to land when I was ready. Relationships with marginalized folks take time and nurturing. I observed from a distance as the union was showing signs they were doing the right things. It wouldn't be long and I would find myself fully immersed in Federation work.

So off Joane Rivers went... no subject left untouched. Crude and rude, pushing the envelope while at the same time displaying a vulnerability, likeability, and humanity we all felt in the room. This was about

coming together as allies and celebrating Queerness and all it means.

Enter the DIVAS! Celine, Liza, Whitney, Reba, Dolly, Adele, Diana, and, of course, Cher! Powerful women recognizable by single names... these are the idols of the Queer community. Strong powerful women who challenged norms, laid groundwork, and who were feminists in their own right—all of whom championed Queer rights their entire careers. This was the Deceiving Divas with Joane Rivers at the helm in all of her glory!

Nervous to the point of illness backstage, Joane Rivers made the decision to break character, show vulnerability and allow the two worlds to collide. A glammed up Joane was behind the dressing table, stripping down the façade while performing "What Makes a Man a Man." The number often brings audiences to tears, leaves us questioning gender binaries and homophobia, and reminding us of the importance of compassion, acceptance, and the celebration of humanity.

The glitz, vulgarity, and camp slowly disappeared to reveal the educator, colleague, and proud Member of OSSTF/FEESO. Standing vulnerable and out of drag... I found myself

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Can We Talk? Happy Pride! (cont'd)



immersed in love as a thunderous standing ovation broke the silence of the closing number.

This was the moment I knew the complexity of my identity had been valued and seen.

I had found a safe place to land in OSSTF/FEESO!



CAREpath provides support for our Permanent 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, contact the District Office for the 1-800 number and 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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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



Trustee Meet and Greet



Marcy McCrae
EPAC Co-Chair

Each year, the Educational and Political Action Committee (EPAC) invites the Board's trustees to come and review the results of our annual survey. This year saw us host not only some of the invited trustees, but also leadership from the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

This meeting was intended to raise awareness of our recent collaborative campaign with our fellow educational affiliates, the Postcard Campaign. Many education workers across our unions shared their concerns on the postcards which spoke to the lived experiences of our members witnessing or experiencing violence at their work sites.

The meeting was attended by 5 trustees, Chair Christine Thatcher, Caroyln Morton, Deb Oldfield, Emma Cunningham and Tracey Brown. These

trustees have been working diligently to address ongoing violence in schools and were instrumental in establishing an Ad Hoc board committee to address violence in schools. This committee has met a few times this year and has not only board staff and trustees sitting on it, but also leadership from our unions.

The trustees took time to read some of the postcards and then education workers from each union spoke about either personal experiences or experiences that their members had undergone. Education workers spoke about the existing reporting systems and how support for eliminating or ameliorating violent behaviour on the part of students has been steadily eroded by reduced funding and existing policies not being implemented or enforced. Trustees expressed their deep concern about working and learning conditions being compromised because of violence.

Two themes emerged from the postcards and conversation that were replicated in our 2024 EPAC survey: communication failures and implementation of policy failures. In our annual survey, we saw an increase in communication breakdowns

between school administration and teaching/support staff during and after serious incidents. We also saw an increase in our members reporting that while there may be existing policies to address unwanted student behaviour, implementation of these policies (attendance, Code of Conduct, Education Act violations) does not happen on a consistent basis in our schools, contributing heavily to the sense of daily chaos. This intensifies feelings of unsafety that our members reported on the survey.

While we may face significant challenges at our work sites, it was heartening to see that trustees are interested in a collaborative process with our members. We have been invited to upcoming meetings of the committee and intend to represent our members' interests and concerns at every opportunity.

If you are interested in this issue or other educational issues that affect our working conditions, we invite you to participate in the D13 EPAC committee.

New members are always welcome! Please contact the District 13 office for details and information.

Better Schools, Strong Communities!



Marcy McCrae
EPAC Co-Chair

At AMPA 2024, Provincial Executive unveiled their Strategic Action Plan, which included a plan to prepare for election readiness for 2026, a year in which we will see a provincial general election and a municipal election. However, this plan extends beyond those time limits and establishes a structure that will support our efforts to create better working conditions for our members and more importantly, a stronger community. Indeed, this plan is referred to as the “Better Schools, Stronger Communities” initiative. However, I like to call it “THE PLAN”. Trademark is still pending.

As an AMPA delegate, I was excited to vote for this plan. Two weeks later, in attendance at the first Organizing Institute, I was even more excited to envision what this implementation will look like for us in D13, Durham Region.

The two key pillars of this plan involve a deepening of member mobilisation and a creation of

an external coalition with groups in our region who share the same goals and values as we do; to live in a community that is resilient and thriving.

To get us there, Provincial has hired 6 organisers to provide support for all 37 districts, and all bargaining units. Each district has a dedicated organising lead with local education and political action committees providing more support. Each district has also been organised into regions. We are aligned with Toronto, Peel and York.

At a recent presentation of the Action plan to a school site in Ajax, the phrase “The personal is political” was used to illustrate the **why** of the plan. That phrase was initially coined by feminist writer Carole Hanisch in the 1970s. She pointed out that many of the challenges faced by women were in fact political and legal issues, and not simply personal problems, such as the issue of unequal pay, or not being allowed to open a bank account or credit card on their own. We want to consider how our current personal, family and community needs directly intersect with political systems and come up with strategies to address these needs.

In the next few months, as a member of our district, you can expect efforts to engage with you for the purpose of member mobilisation. We want to know what issues are at the forefront of your mind; is it working conditions? Living conditions? Issues within your neighbourhood and community?

At the same time, we will be connecting with existing local organisations whose values and goals are tied with our own, so that we can begin to build coalitions with these groups to create real change in our communities.

This is a big, bold and ambitious plan. OSSTF has never done anything like this before. While we do want to be ready for the challenges (and opportunities!) of the 2026 election cycles, we intend to use this framework moving forward into the next several years. This isn’t a one and done response; this is systemic change. With that comes questions, growth and change.

Your local Education and Political Action Committee (EPAC) is eager to seek your energy and talents. As we formulate our next steps, we seek your input. If this work is of interest to you, please join our EPAC. All are welcome, anytime.

What Happens if I Become Injured or Ill Over the Summer?



Richard McCormack
D13 TBU Representative

If you become injured or ill over the summer, it may be helpful to understand the process of accessing sick leave provisions that are available to all OSSTF members.

If you need to be off in September or require accommodations in the workplace, you will have your doctor complete the abilities form. The abilities form is the only medical documentation that is accepted by the Board, a doctors' note is not sufficient. If possible, the abilities form should be completed in early August, so that the Board has time to make any necessary arrangements regarding your accommodations, including meeting with you, OSSTF and your Principal/Supervisor. Please note, there is little point in submitting this form in advance in June or July, because the Board will usually want a current medical update and will simply ask you to go back to your doctor again in early August to confirm your restrictions.

Sick Leave Provisions:

If you are injured or fall ill over the summer and cannot start work in September or your doctor indicates you can return with restrictions which would require accommodations, you will access a new allotment of sick leave for the upcoming school year (assuming you were at work in June). You have access to 11 sick days at full salary followed by 120 sick days at 90% salary and any additional top-up from this year's 11 days. One unused day from this year's sick leave will provide up to 10 more days at full salary beyond your first 11 days.

Completing the Abilities Form:

Keep a copy for yourself and send it to Ability Management but not to your school. An easy way to submit your form is by taking a picture with your smartphone and then emailing it to Ability Management at ShortTerm.Absence@ddsb.ca.

The way that the form will be completed will depend on your needs. Section 1 of the Form outlines the options. Please see below.

Based on your doctor's assessment, you will follow one of two paths:

Returning to Work with Accommodations: If your doctor indicates that you can return to work on the first day with some restrictions to your regular workplace duties, they will

- Select the second box in section 1.
- Outline your limitations and restrictions in sections 2A and 2B.
- Complete section 3 and 4 on the abilities form.

You can then:

- Submit the form to ShortTerm.Absence@ddsb.ca
- Email your principal/supervisor to let them know that medical has been submitted which will require accommodations.
- Email your D13 OSSTF representative (see chart below) to let them know that medical has been submitted which requires accommodations. We will be

1. Health Care Professional: The following information should be completed by the Health Care Professional
Please check one:
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient is capable of returning to work with no restrictions.
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient is capable of returning to work with restrictions. Complete section 2 (A & B) & 3
<input type="checkbox"/> I have reviewed sections 2 (A & B) and have determined that the Patient is totally disabled and is unable to return to work at this time. Complete sections 3 and 4. Should the absence continue, updated medical information will next be requested after the date of the follow up appointment indicated in section 4.

What Happens if I Become Injured or Ill Over the Summer? (cont'd)

in touch to discuss your situation.

Please note that if the doctor recommends returning half time they will also need to select “Modified Hours” in section 3 and proceed to outline how working half time will support your limitations and restrictions in the additional comments section.

A meeting will likely occur in the last two weeks of August, and it will include yourself, your principal/supervisor, your ability management case manager and your D13 OSSTF representative.

Not Returning to Work: If the doctor is indicating that you are

unable to return to work at this time, they will

- Select the third box in Section 1.
- If this is the case, they will NOT complete Sections 2A or 2B.
- Complete sections 3 & 4.

You can then:

- Submit the form to ShortTerm.Absence@ddsb.ca.
- Email your principal/supervisor to let them know that you will not be at work and that you have provided documentation to Ability Management.
- Email your District 13 OSSTF Representative to let them know that you will not be at

work and that you have provided documentation to Ability Management. We will be in touch to discuss your situation.

If you need any assistance, please reach out to Garrett Metcalfe or Richard McCormack as they are both responsible for a group of worksites. The District Office is closed during the summer but as things come up, such as return to work planning, they are dealt with on an as-needed basis. The best way to reach them during the summer is by email at :

garrett.metcalfe@d13.osstf.ca
or
richard.mccormack@d13.osstf.ca.

Richard McCormack	Garrett Metcalfe
Ajax HS	Durham Alternative School (DASS)
Anderson CVI	Centre for Success
Brock HS	DDSB@Hm – Secondary
Brooklin HS	Maxwell Heights SS
Donald A. Wilson SS	O’Neil CVI
Dunbarton HS	Pickering HS
Eastdale CVI	Pine Ridge SS
GL Roberts CVI	Port Perry HS
Henry St. HS	RS McLaughlin
J. Clarke Richardson	Sinclair SS
PSSP	Uxbridge SS
Continuing Education	Grove School
	Branch 18 (Secondary Centrally assigned positions)

Student Achievements Celebrated at District 13 OSSTF Student Award Night



Orit Orlovsky
D13 TBU Representative

The D13 Student Awards Night was held on May 22nd, 2024, at the Royal Canadian Legion in Oshawa. Twenty-two remarkable students from secondary schools across Durham were honored at this annual event. The award recognizes graduating students who may otherwise be overlooked for other graduation honours but have nonetheless worked diligently to overcome adversity and achieve their high school diplomas or certificates. These inspiring young people demonstrated exceptional resilience and a true commitment to the federation values of social justice, equity, grassroots activism and civic responsibility.

It was amazing to witness the success of the 22 award recipients, as they shared their unique journeys, future aspirations and personal goals, offering a glimpse into the extraordinary qualities that earned them this recognition. From aspiring artists to future professionals, from architects to social workers, from teachers to

community leaders, these students are poised to make significant contributions to society.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a special scholarship created to commemorate Adam Wood, a teacher who tragically lost his life during a school shooting at La Loche Community School in Northern Saskatchewan. This scholarship is awarded to a student who embodies Adam's passion for life, sense of adventure, and commitment to helping others. Raised in Uxbridge, Ontario, Adam was known for his infectious laughter and dedication to making a positive impact, particularly within the Indigenous communities he served. The Adam Wood Scholarship is intended to recognize a student who exemplifies the qualities that Adam Wood stood for: a deep commitment to environmental awareness, social justice, and FNMI issues, as well as a love of nature and adventure and an intent to pursue a career in education.

This year's Adam Wood Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Briana Ashokumar from Donald A. Wilson S.S. Briana exemplifies many of the qualities that Adam Wood embodied. A writer, producer,

and actor in many artistic endeavours, as well as a leader on various school clubs, Briana is actively engaged in many social justice initiatives. As a Sea Cadet, Briana has developed a love of the outdoors, and has learned sailing, orienteering, wilderness survival, and general seamanship. With plans to attend university in the fall and to become a teacher, we look forward to welcoming Briana to the profession and the federation soon.

Following the awards presentation, a reception was held where attendees enjoyed refreshments and had the opportunity to mingle and take photos. The award recipients and their families enjoyed connecting with others from across Durham, and the feeling in the room was one of excitement and celebration.

The District 13 Student Awards Night serves as a powerful reminder of the impact that dedication, empathy, and resilience can have, not just on individual lives but on the broader community. As the event concluded, there was a palpable sense of hope and optimism for the future, driven by the knowledge that these students will continue to inspire and effect positive change in the world.

D13 Member Engagement Events



D13 partnered with DDSB for the GSA Conference



D13 partnered with community organizations for PRIDE PROM 2024!



Shane Stagg leading the way with Pride!

D13 participated in the Durham Pride Parade in Ajax on June 2, 2024.



Orit Orlovsky and Garrett Metcalfe

D13 Member Engagement Events



Members of D13 enjoyed a morning wellness outing while exploring bird migration at Thickson's Woods Land Trust.

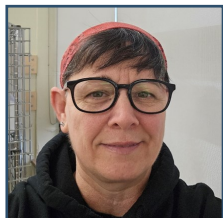
Shelley Page Memorial Golf Tournament 2024



Team entry, 'Calm Before the Storm': Ben Bell, Stephen Pierce, Mike McFetters, James Kawano

Congratulations as Tournament Champions of the Shelley Page Memorial Golf Tournament 2024!

Kitchen Korner



Heather Tyrrell
Communications Rep.
Henry St. HS

As the academic year draws to a close, it's a time for reflection and celebration of the collective efforts and achievements of all. From students diligently studying to teachers tirelessly guiding and supporting, everyone has played a crucial role in making this year a success. However, amid the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to neglect our own well-being. As we transition into the summer break, it's imperative to prioritize self-care and embrace activities that nourish and heal the soul.

Undoubtedly, the past year has been filled with challenges and triumphs. Students have juggled academic demands, extracurricular activities, and personal commitments, while educators have dedicated themselves to fostering learning and growth in their classrooms. Such dedication and hard work deserve recognition and celebration. However, amidst the celebrations, it's vital to acknowledge the toll that such

intense focus and dedication can take on our mental and emotional well-being.

Therefore, as we embark on a well-deserved summer break, let us take this opportunity to pause, breathe, and rejuvenate our spirits. One of the most profound ways to nurture ourselves is through nourishing foods. Summer offers an abundance of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs bursting with flavor and nutrients. Embracing seasonal produce not only provides essential vitamins and minerals but also connects us to the rhythm of nature.

Summer is a time to savor the simple pleasures of life, and few things encapsulate this sentiment better than indulging in the bounty of seasonal produce. Whether enjoyed fresh off the vine or incorporated into delectable dishes, these fruits and vegetables offer a burst of flavor that is unmatched by their counterparts in any other season. These foods not only nourish our bodies but also uplift our spirits, reminding us of the beauty and abundance that surrounds us. Moreover, taking the time to prepare and savor meals mindfully can be a form of meditation, allowing us to slow down and appreciate the present moment.

In addition to nourishing foods, finding moments of stillness and reflection can be profoundly restorative. Whether it's taking a leisurely stroll in nature, practicing yoga, or simply sitting in quiet contemplation, carving out time for self-reflection allows us to recharge and realign with our innermost selves. It's in these moments of stillness that we can find clarity, perspective, and renewed inspiration.

Furthermore, engaging in activities that bring us joy and fulfillment is essential for our overall well-being. Whether it's pursuing a creative hobby, spending time with loved ones, or exploring new adventures, summer break offers endless possibilities for exploration and growth. By embracing these experiences wholeheartedly, we can replenish our souls and return to the new academic year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

There's something about the vibrant colors and juicy flavors of fresh summer fruits and vegetables that can truly uplift the spirit. Whether it's biting into a ripe peach, enjoying a crisp salad with tomatoes straight from the vine, or savoring the sweetness of watermelon, these foods not only nourish the body but also bring a sense of joy and vitality

Cont'd on P18

Kitchen Korner (cont'd)

to the soul. Plus, they're packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making them a delicious and healthy choice for summer meals. Here are a few summer recipe links to tempt your appetite.

Tomato Basil Feta Salad:

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/65300/tomato-basil-and-feta-salad/>

Riesling-Poached Peaches with Tarragon and Salted Sour Cream:

<https://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/riesling-poached-peaches-tarragon-and-salted-sour-cream>

Grilled Watermelon Salad:

<https://www.slenderkitchen.com/recipe/grilled-watermelon-salad>

Food Quote:

"All you need is love.
But a little chocolate now
and then doesn't hurt."

-Charles M. Schulz-

Today's Chuckle:

What do you give to a sick lemon?
Answer: Lemon-aid

Hope everyone has a relaxing and
rejuvenating summer!!

-Chef Tyrrell-

PSSP Update

Executive

President:	Kristen Bennett
1st Vice President:	Amanda Frumkin
Secretary:	Meg Bergin
Lead Negotiator	Elizabeth McDonald
Health & Safety Officer	Jenifer Mascoll
Ed Services Officer	Jennifer Morris
Executive Officer	Stephanie Pritchard
Equity Officer	Alice Afram

CBC

Psychological	Mary McArthur
Social Work	Emily Lam
CYSW	Darcy Field
Intervenor	Jacque Westcott
Interpreter	Stephanie Pritchard
SLP	Jenifer Mascoll

Wouldn't it be **GRAND?** [Enter now](#)

Enter to win our monthly prize of **\$1,000 cash** and the grand prize of **\$3,000!**

No purchase necessary. Open to all active and retired Ontario education members. Must be an Ontario resident, minimum 18 years of age to enter. Contest closes December 31, 2024. Selected winners must correctly answer a skill-testing question.

Full contest rules at www.otip.com/contest-rules. Odds of winning depend on entries received by the draw date for the prizes.



Committee Reports to the TBU AGM May 8, 2024

Report of the Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Advisory Collectives

By Kokhulani Yasodaran

District 13 is committed to dismantle all forms of racism and oppression, and determined to build an equitable, inclusive, and accessible institution, where voices of First Nations, Metis and Inuit, and Equity seeking individuals are prioritized. With the creation of the Anti-Oppression and Social Justice Lead Executive position held by Khogu Yasodaran and the commitment from District 13 Representative, Garrett Metcalfe, 2023 – 2024 has been a year where member voice and engagement continued to be amplified, and action was taken!

The 2023-2024 federation year has seen the continuation of our Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Committee, Black Advisory Committee, joint Pride Advisory Committee with ETFO Durham, and our Jewish Advisory Committee. It has also been an inaugural and active year for our MENA (Middle Eastern North African Collective) and our newly created Indigenous Advisory.

The role of the advisory collectives and committees is to advise the District Executive on how to develop and enhance policies and actions to implement and support equity, anti-racism and anti-oppressive practices and processes for all members within the federation and their workplaces. The committees have engaged in continuous vigilance in addressing disproportionality and disparity in member engagement, participation, and representation, and worked alongside the Human Rights Committee, Public Relations Committee, Professional Development Committee, Collective Bargaining Committee and Constitution Committee to build federation knowledge, and union-specific skills to increase representation. The impact is evident through the increased diversity in representation of our local executive, committee engagement and shifts in political action and policies.

Working in community with District Executives, District Representatives and District Committees, the Advisory Collectives were able to bring awareness to the importance of Equity, Anti-Oppression and Social Justice training to build upon their knowledge and expertise and move along the continuum from theory into

action. Many opportunities for learning and growth have been provided throughout the year including professional development training at monthly staff meetings, mentoring opportunities to support educators doing anti-oppression work in their schools, and an Anti-Oppression Workshop series offered to our members that included topics such as Equity 101, Queer 101, White Supremacy Culture and Working Towards Decolonizing Education. We also worked to move our informal Equity Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression working group into an official standing committee to secure the committee's important role in federation work for years to come. The EAAO (Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Committee) is excited to announce they are currently working on resources to support our members in navigating the system if they experience harm at the hands of colleagues, students and the employer. This work will continue into next year with the goal of launching it by the winter of 2024.

We would like to take a moment to thank the members of our identity-based advisory committees who have demonstrated their dedication and passion for advancing anti-

Committee Reports to the TBU AGM May 8, 2024

oppression and social justice work locally, and within the federation and beyond. You continue to anchor your commitment in unwavering confidence, and together, we will continue to grow stronger and empower change.

Report of the Collective Bargaining Committee

By Richard McCormack

The current government of Ontario has not demonstrated that it is a willing bargaining partner in this round of negotiations. OSSTF presented the membership with a choice for a bargaining pathway that involved Voluntary Binding Interest Arbitration. The members voted to choose this bargaining pathway and as a result, any central items not agreed upon after October 27, 2023, and any local items not agreed upon after March 28, 2024, would be decided in arbitration.

Your TBU bargaining team worked diligently to be able to reach a local tentative agreement with the Durham District School Board, which was ratified by the membership. With the Bill 124 award now determined and a new local collective agreement, members await for the outstanding items

in the central collective agreement to be determined by the arbitrator.

Our Collective Bargaining Committee elicits consultation from our members in the development of our TBU brief and its consequent language. Reports on staffing and contract maintenance continue to be reported to the committee. The committee provides input regarding concerns in their worksite which help develop items for the bargaining survey. We continue to work towards our goal of a strong local collective agreement.

As always, we must remember how important it is to constantly uphold what we have already agreed to. We are all involved in this aspect of contract maintenance, from reporting class sizes, to counting our minutes for lunch supervision, to making sure our seniority has been correctly calculated. Letting our guard down even for a short time could lead to precedent-setting trends which would affect all of us and undermine the things we have fought so long and hard for, especially in Durham. Our local TBU contract is the envy of many other Districts, and we must be vigilant in protecting it on a daily basis.

I would like to conclude by thanking each of the TBU Collective Bargaining Committee representatives in each of the schools. These people continue to volunteer their time to attend meetings and act as a vital conduit in the communication of information regarding the maintenance of our collective agreement and keeping colleagues informed about bargaining proceedings. Their dedication is integral to the protection of our workload and their contributions represent the strength and solidarity that defines District 13 teachers.

Report of the Communications Committee

By George Chaktsiris

Every school year, the Communications Committee endeavors, through the production and publication of INPRINT 13, to bring to the membership articles that are topical and professionally relevant. We strive to keep all our fellow OSSTF members in the Durham District School Board informed by sharing pieces about the people, events, news and information items, both local and provincial, that are pertinent to our working lives. This can be

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through reading one of our regularly appearing columns (President's Message, Chief Negotiator's Report and District Representatives' Reports), and information relating to current events. This year we welcomed new additions to the committee and the articles produced by this group helped inform members across the District. This committee continues to strive to help our members be among the most well-informed OSSTF members in the province. As Chair of Communications, I am proud to have been able to continue this endeavor with such a committed group of individuals, to bring you digital editions of INPRINT 13 as well as the return of our print editions this year.

To achieve this goal is no easy task. It takes the work of many people who give of their knowledge, time, and insight. We are truly appreciative of the industrious efforts of all our contributors this year. It is also worth noting that our TBU Representative, Nicole Bléau, accepted a staff position at Provincial Office, and since Garrett Metcalfe has assumed this role with grace and has become a priceless member of the committee filling the big shoes left by Nicole. In addition, the invaluable assistance and timely, informative articles produced by Shane Stagg, Nicole

Bléau, Richard McCormack and Garrett Metcalfe, Orit Orlovsky who contribute multiple articles to every issue cannot be overlooked. Special thanks to all committee members and contributors this year.

Of course, the yearly Communications Committee Report cannot be considered complete without taking the opportunity to recognize and thank Ruth Leone, the District 13 Office Manager, for her diligent efforts in overseeing the layout, printing and delivery of each and every issue of INPRINT 13 we produce. Ruth's hard work, expertise and patience with late arriving articles is truly appreciated!

Report of the Constitution Committee

By Shane Stagg

This committee is responsible for examining district and bargaining unit constitutions to recommend additions and changes to bring to the Annual General Meeting.

The committee is happy to endorse the resolution seeking to formalize the TBU/PSSP Equity Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Committee. This committee has been doing

important work with dedicated members and Khogu Yasodaran as its chair. Approval of this motion by the membership will ensure that this committee continues into the future.

Report of the Educational Issues and Political Action Committee

By Marcia McCrae and Shane Stagg

The Educational Issues and Political Action Committee, (EPAC), focuses on the forces at play that have an influence on the learning conditions of students and the working conditions of members. Public education is one of the cornerstones of our Canadian society. We want this to take place in a healthy and safe environment where students are provided many opportunities to learn and have their efforts be reflective of their best abilities. This committee embodies these principles and works hard to make them a greater priority among our members and community as a whole.

EPAC focuses time and energy on monitoring ongoing education issues, both in our board and in the province, as well as monitoring the actions of elected local and provincial

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politicians in an effort to improve working conditions for members and learning conditions for students. We participate in and analyze board meetings, discuss educational challenges, such as poor policies, chronic underfunding, and the after-effects of Covid19 and make plans to seek effective change.

EPAC also constructs, oversees, analyzes, and reports back to members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the findings of the annual survey. This year, EPAC also reviewed data from the last four years of the survey to better understand the working conditions of members and the efficacy of policies enacted by the Ministry of Education. This information is routinely shared with senior administration of the board and with trustees.

EPAC is one of many such committees across the province. At AMPA 2024, Provincial OSSTF unveiled a new strategic plan to build coalitions and capacity to organize for the purpose of political and education action. At the first Organizing Institute, members of our EPAC worked to plan the first few steps of this bold initiative. Our EPAC will be part of this transformative shift in our relationships with community actors who want to see real change and who are

willing to partner with us to make it happen.

Report of the Health and Safety Committee

By Kathie Harris and Richard McCormack

The District 13 Health and Safety Committee meets six times during the year. Our school representatives provide an important link to the District TBU Office in matters concerning the health and safety of our members. They also play an important role in the Internal Responsibility System of the Durham District School Board's Health and Safety Program in our schools as they help ensure that members' safety concerns are brought forward.

The OSSTF worker members on the DDSB's Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) for this year were Richard McCormack and Shane Stagg. The District 13 Health and Safety Committee members help share information from the DDSB Joint Health and Safety Committee with each of the schools.

School representatives perform scheduled workplace inspections on behalf of the staff in their buildings three

times per year. They look at the safety of the facilities and equipment both inside and outside their buildings. The representatives gather information from their colleagues about safety concerns, if any, and ensure that they are brought to the attention of management and addressed through the school custodian, requesting work orders be submitted by the administration or reporting concerns to the Workplace Inspection Review Committee as part of the inspection process. Richard McCormack is a member of the Workplace Inspection Review Committee, a sub-committee of the JHSC.

All committee members play a critical role in conveying information about safety and health concerns at their schools to and from the District TBU Office. On behalf of staff members, they raise a wide variety of issues ranging from indoor air quality, parking lot conditions, concerns about workplace violent incident reporting, and assisting co-workers after workplace injuries.

Thank you to all the members of the District 13 Health and Safety Committee for their ongoing commitment to keeping their workplaces safe for all staff.

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Report of the Human Rights Committee

By Esther McCalla

Over the past year, the committee has focused on a variety of initiatives with the hope that as a group we can promote humanity and human rights. We have been very active and able to have all our meetings in-person which have afforded us to develop closer relationships with each other and the community as a whole. Our team is awesome, and each person's efforts are noted and appreciated. Thank you, Team HR!

Our D13 website has been a source of accessible and valuable information that provides tools to assist our members in doing our collective and important work. We have also effectively utilized Mailchimp throughout the year to promote our events and keep members informed.

To honour the lives lost to Residential Schools, the HR community was able to support the Indigenous Community through visible support on Orange Shirt Day. We provided orange shirts to members on September 30, 2023 – a gesture that created much awareness in our community. These

initiatives are important in bringing communities together and moving towards healing. Additionally, we have recently launched *The Honouring Indigenous Excellence Competition 2024* which is slated to be closed on May 14, 2024, just in time to celebrate June as Indigenous month.

The HR committee has taken the initiative to work towards decolonizing our district. We have acknowledged the barriers to participation due to colonialism. We operate informally at our meetings with full conversation and the goal of always reaching a full consensus for all decisions made. New members are always welcomed.

We have, as a committee, been able to forge another successful White Ribbon Campaign within our district. Additionally, we ran a White Ribbon Initiative (Violence Against Women Challenge), among our students and staff. This was successful in bringing awareness of violence against all women.

To acknowledge Black History month, the committee launched a Black Excellence Competition. We received many newer student entries and winners were able to cash in on monetary prizes as well

as Certificates of Recognition. Although our initiative to celebrate Black History in February with the viewing of a **Beyonce** film fell victim to a painful snowstorm, we were still able to share the movie with a comfortable number of members at the Whitby Landmark theatre. The feedback from those who participated was very positive.

The Human Rights Committee has partnered with the Red Cross to support Blood donations. This is an ongoing project. Blood donation is an altruistic act that benefits the community and society. Over the years, especially since COVID, there has been a decline in blood donations, and HR is appealing to members to assist in this meaningful act of humanity. Donations can be made at the Red Cross at any pre-arranged time. Our District 13's special number is DIST102203. We would like to thank all members, their families, and friends for supporting this initiative. Please continue with your generosity. The HR committee will be hosting their annual Deceiving Divas Fundraiser on Friday June 14, 2024, in honour of Pride month. This event is always well attended and sells out. Be sure to get your tickets from the D13 TBU office! Funds raised will be used to support the Pride Prom

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and our D13 Caring Colleagues program.

On behalf of the members of HR and the District 13 staff, both Garrett and I would like to thank you for your continued support in taking little steps at keeping humanity alive in all of us.

Report of the Professional Development Committee

By Senthuran Paramasamy

The Professional Development (PD) Committee remains focused on the goal of supporting the professional growth of members in District 13. This year, the committee played a crucial role in planning and executing the joint OSSTF/DDSB Professional Development Day on November 17, 2023, and in reviewing and approving funding for individual self-directed PD for members.

Annually, the focus for the joint OSSTF/DDSB PD Day alternates between a curriculum-based theme and a mental health/work-life balance theme. The 2023-2024 PD Day concentrated on curriculum connections while integrating wellness components. Given the return to in-person professional development, the theme "Evolving Classrooms" was particularly apt. The day served as an opportunity for members

to reconnect through subject and wellness-based professional development. We received a record-breaking number of proposals this year and approved workshops to offer our members. The committee extends heartfelt gratitude to all who generously shared their time and expertise to deliver outstanding professional development.

Members will continue to access their \$150 benefit for self-directed individual PD this year. However, the committee acknowledges a significant increase in the cost of professional development. Consequently, we are exploring the possibility of further adjustments to the allowable benefit for the upcoming year. Following the committee's recommendation, the District Executive has approved maintaining the \$150 benefit per member for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Looking ahead, we aim to support and promote the delivery of Provincial OSSTF Educational Services Workshops on topics of interest within our local community next year. Additionally, we are considering offering locally developed workshops on anti-oppression to our members.

A heartfelt thank you to the members of the PD Committee for their dedication, expertise, and time invested in monthly committee meetings. We also extend our gratitude to Ruth and the office staff for their unwavering support throughout the year.

As we anticipate the future, keep an eye out for the proposal form for next year's joint DDSB/D13 Professional Development Day!

Report of the Public Relations Committee

By Jacquie Westcott

The mandate of the Public Relations Committee has been to build positive relationships between our members, and to promote the contributions of teachers and professional student services personnel to their students and within the community through advertising, sponsorship, and charitable donations.

To address the morale and mental well-being of members, the committee has hosted a **bird watching event** at Thicksen's Woods Land Trust, and the annual **Member Free Skate** on Family Day at McKinney Centre, with donations supporting students at Durham Alternative Secondary School. In June, the

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committee is again hosting the popular **Shelley Page Memorial Golf Tournament**, with proceeds supporting **"Caring Colleagues"**, formerly "Teachers Caring for Teachers". This name change came about to be inclusive of the district's Professional Student Services Personnel. The committee continued to arrange for cards and gifts through this initiative to members who were off work due to extended illnesses. The committee contributed to the Human Rights Committee's private screening of **Renaissance** for members.

The committee continues to explore avenues to highlight how District 13 supports the community. Our community outreach initiatives this year include supporting **Steps for Life**, a walk for families of workplace tragedy. The committee has continued with its advertising, once again purchasing space in **Lakeridge Hospital Activity Book** with proceeds to the **Make A Wish Foundation**. Advertising space on GO Transit Shelters was purchased at Durham College Oshawa GO Station. Radio spots were acquired on KX96, 94.9 the Roc, CKDO, and KX96 for holiday messages, to promote District 13 and commemorate the **National Day of Mourning** on April 28, and **Labour Day** in September. Additional radio spots were secured with 105.5 Hits FM, in their "Walk So Kids Can Talk"

Campaign, in support of **Kids Help Phone**. Rink board advertising was renewed with the City of Oshawa.

Members requested and were approved for sponsorships within the community, highlighting the district's commitment to both students and the community. We supported youth baseball, soccer, and hockey teams as

they played across the region. In addition, the committee sponsored a member's **Ride for Cancer**, and sponsored the **Durham Black Educator's Network's** Student Awards.

The committee welcomes TBU and PSSP members in joining us to build strong member relationships and to promote the community contributions of District 13 OSSTF.

TELUS Health (formerly LifeWorks/Posaction)

TELUS Health (formerly LifeWorks/Posaction) 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. TELUS Health 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 web-based services available.

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

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


Log in with the username and password below:

Login: Lifeworks1

Password: @OTIPTL123



PD Day November 15, 2024



Weaving Wellness

Subject and Wellness-Based
Professional Development Day

November 15, 2024

The workshops are **by teachers for teachers!**

BE A PRESENTER!

Submit your Professional Development Day proposal

[Google form](#) by September 25, 2024.

