



President's Memo

Shane Stagg, President

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Headship Postings: Postings for Department Head Positions have been released and are available in [ApplytoEducation](#). Postings close this Friday.

Bargaining: Negotiations are currently underway between OSSTF, the Provincial Government, and OPSBA which represents school Boards. Bargaining updates are shared with members through our email list. The front page of the upcoming issue of INPRINT will include details as well. The slow stream of information is indicative of the nature of bargaining at this time. Provincial Office understands that members want any ramping up of actions to support bargaining to be gradual.

District 13 Email: Are you receiving information from District 13 to your personal email account? If not, email richard.mccormack@d13.osstf.ca from a non-board email address. Indicate your school or that you are an occasional teacher or PSSP member and we will add you to the District 13 email list. As we move through negotiations, receiving District updates becomes even more important. Please check in with colleagues as well to ask if they are included on our mailing list and receiving updates.

Family Day Skate: District 13 OSSTF is excited to announce that our Member Free Skate is back! It will take place on Family Day, February 20, 2023. Members and their guests are invited to join us at the McKinney Centre, Arena 3, in Whitby, at 1-3 PM. Please see your Branch President for tickets. Non-perishable food items will be collected as well as cash donations. Cash donations are preferred as food banks have the ability to make purchases at a discount.

Mediation Services Resource Bank: OSSTF's Mediation Services Resource Bank (MSRB) provides dispute resolution services to members who are in professional conflict with other members that does not reach the threshold of harassment. It consists of mediators who live and work across the province. All are Federation members with extensive training and experience in mediation and conflict resolution. In order to preserve confidentiality, mediators are usually assigned from outside the geographic area of the disputants. Please contact the District Office for advice on whether you should request the services of the MSRB in helping you resolve an issue.

Social Media: Members are encouraged to be mindful when making social media posts, commenting on posts, or sharing. Any post that could potentially reflect poorly on the DDSB can gather the attention of the employer. The position of the Board is that all employees share a responsibility to the reputation of the Board and it refers to the OCT advisory, "[Maintaining Professionalism – Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media](#)" as a guide when establishing expectations. Members are encouraged to read this document and be familiar with it when considering their activity on social media. Even if posting to a private group of online friends please be mindful that members of that group can share your content outside of the group or express concerns to others which can bring it to the attention of the Board which may then feel compelled to investigate. The OCT also advises members to not issue, and to decline, "friend" or "follow" requests from students.

OTIP: Members are reminded that if they have had any life changes such as a new child, a new spouse, a divorce etc. that they have a 31 day window of opportunity to update their benefits. Once the window closes, you can only make changes upon your next life change!