



President's Memo

Dave Barrowclough, President

905 668 7100

March 20th, 2017

*****MASS MEETING, RATIFICATION VOTES and OSSTF BENEFITS REGISTRATION – TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION*****

- 1. Mass meeting – Contract Extension and Bill 115 Remedy Information** – As a result of the tentative contract extension and Bill 115 remedy, there will be a mass meeting for Provincial Representatives to explain the contents of the agreements and take questions. District 13's mass meeting, for both permanent and occasional teachers, has been set for 4:30 pm on Monday, March 27th at Sikorski Hall (The Polish Hall) in Oshawa. Sikorski Hall is located at 1551 Stevenson Road North, Oshawa, L1H 7K4. **NO documents will be made available at the meeting.** If you want to have a copy of the extension and remedy summaries, or the full document, for the meeting, you will need to log into the Provincial website, download and print these documents to bring with you. Again, there will be NO copies of any documents made available at the meeting. There will be two ratification votes; one for the extension and one for the remedy. This means that each member will have two ballots to cast. Voting on the extension and remedy will take place in schools on March 31st and April 3rd. Your Branch President will share details of the location and times available for casting a ballot as we get closer to these dates. For members not currently working in a school, the District Office will be open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on both March 31st and April 3rd for voting (please bring identification with you). The District Office is located at 601 Palace St. in Whitby. Occasional teachers may vote at either a school or at the District Office. Proxy voting is not permitted. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the District Office.
- 2. OSSTF Provincial Benefits Registration Launch** – Registration time is finally here! District 13 will officially be transitioning to the OSSTF Provincial Benefits Plan effective April 1st 2017. Welcome packages are currently arriving at the mailing addresses on file with the DDSB. You will then receive an email sent to your DDSB email address between March 20th and 31st. The email will provide detailed registration instructions including your new OTIP identification number and instructions on how to set up your password. **If you don't receive an email with enrolment instructions by April 1st, contact OTIP Benefits Services at 1-866-783-6847.** Eligible members without a board email address or on leave will be mailed enrolment instructions. **Every member** will need to register online at www.otip.com/enrol. **You will have up to 31 days after the launch date to complete your registration.** However, we strongly recommend registering as soon as possible. **ALL members will need to register, even those who do not want to purchase medi-dent benefits.** This is because Life and ADD benefits are being provided free to all members and are a requirement of employment. (If you are on a leave of absence, you have the option to register and join the plan now, or register and join when you return to work.) Tutorials will be available on the website to help you through the process at www.otip.com/loginhelp.

As you may know, there have been many problems with the registration process in Districts around the province. While we are hopeful that these issues have been resolved, you must be prepared for issues to occur. This is why we recommend that everyone register as soon as possible, so that there is plenty of time to address any concerns that come up. In particular, we anticipate problems for

those members who do not have an FTE in their school at this time. Any claims up to 11:59pm March 31st 2017 fall under the old plan provisions and must be submitted accordingly. Any claims from 12:00am April 1st 2017 onwards fall under the new Provincial plan provisions. For tech support, issues regarding the registration process, questions regarding the optional coverages in the plan, or issues making a claim (including using your benefits cards): Call OTIP Benefits Services at 1-866-783-6847. Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Enrolment-related assistance only on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Here are a few key facts about the registration process as provided in earlier issues of Imprint and mass email:

All Permanent Teachers and their spouses/dependents are eligible: You can join the new plan with no medical documentation even if you or your spouse/dependents have opted out or been denied in the past.

There is a 31-day deadline to register: If you have not registered within 31 days of the April 1st 2017 start date, you will not be eligible to join later (specific life changes such as getting married or having a child notwithstanding).

The DDSB will be transferring some of your personal information to the new system: Some of the information the DDSB has on file for you with regards to your benefits is supposed to be transferred into the new system. This should make the registration process fairly quick. However.....

Don't trust that the DDSB's information transfer is accurate: Do not assume that the transition of info is complete or correct. Say, for example, that your family has been on your benefits for years. However, if the Board only transfers the information about you personally, then your family disappears from your benefits ...unless you re-register them during this process. That is why it is so important that you complete the registration process online before the deadline.

AD&D and Life Insurance are mandatory but free: AD&D and Life Insurance of 2 x Salary are being provided to everyone at no charge, even if you do not buy medi-dent coverage. (You can purchase additional coverage if you wish.) These are requirements of employment so everyone must register, including...

You must designate a beneficiary: Even if you have already done so in the past, you must designate a beneficiary for your life insurance under the new plan. You will not be fully registered until you have done so. This will require signing a form and sending it in the mail to OTIP.

You will need to provide your banking information: in order for your reimbursements to be deposited into your account by direct deposit, you must provide your banking information, even if you have already done so. Like the life insurance beneficiary, this is something that cannot be transferred from one plan to another.

The Benefits/Drug Card in the registration package does not mean that your enrollment is complete: there will be a card for the member only in the package, but this only means that you are set up to confirm your enrollment through the registration process. All the reasons listed in the previous bullets outline the importance of verifying your information through the registration process. Once you have completed the online registration, benefits cards will be sent for your spouse and/or dependents.

If you have any questions about the benefits available under the new plan, go to OSSTF's secure member site at www.osstf.on.ca and select the Member Login button on the right. Once you have logged in, select the large blue MyOSSTF button. Available on the site are a number of documents including: OSSTF Benefits Bulletin #1: Introducing your New Plan; OSSTF Benefits FAQs; OSSTF Benefits Design Summary; and OSSTF Benefits Slide Presentation