



Occasionally Yours

Volume 13 Issue 3

Lakehead Elementary Occasional Teachers' Local

May 2010

From the President

It is difficult to believe that the school year is almost over. Throughout the year I have attended Local and Provincial meetings, worked through member and Board issues as well as involved in the Professional Learning that has taken place this year (as well as supply teaching). I appreciate the questions and comments I have received from members. This contact keeps me informed of issues.

I am looking forward to the Local Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 26th at Victoria Park Seminar Centre from 4:15 to 6:15 (including dinner). Please confirm by Friday, May 21 if you are planning to stay for dinner. Elections for Local executive for the 2010-2011 school year will be held at the Annual Meeting. The following members have been nominated:

President: Nancy Nix

Vice-President: Nancy Calonego

Secretary: Laurie McMillan

Treasurer: Nancy Calonego

Collective Bargaining: Jim Green

Professional Development: Joanne Henry

Communications: Leila Desforjes

Nominations for executive will also be accepted at the Annual Meeting.

**Local Constitution Article IX -Elections,
Section 1 - Eligibility 9.1.2**

“To stand for the office of President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, a candidate must have served at least one term previously on the ETFO Lakehead Occasional Teachers' Local Executive, unless there is no eligible candidate available.” was passed at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Delegates and an alternate to the Provincial Annual General Meeting will also be elected.

Online PL Survey

Please take a few minutes (if you haven't already) to complete the anonymous online survey. The deadline has been extended to Friday, June 2. Send an email to otproflearning@uwo.ca and a survey link will be sent to you. The questions are multiple choice and it takes no more than 15 minutes to complete. The survey needs to have a certain number of respondents to have validity. It doesn't matter whether you participate in professional learning to a greater or lesser degree and PL has many forms other than attending workshops or formal courses. The information collected will help provide appropriate PL for Occasional Teachers. If at least 35 OTs respond in a Local area the preliminary results can be shared with the Local to help meet the needs of members as well as provide data when negotiating with the Board.

Annual Meeting

Wed. May 26

Victoria Park Seminar Centre

4:15 p.m.

Elections

Food Provided

Door prizes

**Please call or email Laurie @
475-5874 or**

glmcmill@tbaytel.net

or Nancy @ nnix@tbaytel.net

**to confirm attendance and to indicate
any dietary restrictions.**

Bill 157

The Education Amendment Act (Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act) came into effect on February 1, 2010. School Boards in Ontario were to have policies and procedures in place concerning such things as bullying prevention and intervention; behaviour, discipline and safety of pupils; progressive discipline; promoting positive student behaviour; and responding to and reporting of incidents. Much of this already takes place in schools but the Ministry would like everything to be consistent across the province. There is an expectation from the Ministry that all board employees would receive training on their responsibilities. Teachers have been trained during school staff meetings. Other staff have also been trained. Occasional Teachers have not, as of yet. This issue has been brought to the attention of the Director. The Lakehead Board is looking at best methods and practices to provide training to casual staff and will notify the Local when there is something more definite.

Pension Changes

The Ontario Teachers' Federation has announced the new changes for retired teachers working in education. Beginning September 1, 2012, all retirees will have a limit of 50 days to work without affecting their pension. The present rules (95/20) will remain in effect until 2012. Boards, rather than teachers themselves, will report the employment to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

ETFO Summer Curriculum Courses

These courses run for 3 days in the summer. The courses cost \$45 and include lunch. *Assessment Makes Sense!* and *Aboriginal Perspectives Workshop* (open to elementary and secondary teachers) are offered in Thunder Bay and *Differentiating Through The Primary and Junior Grades* is offered in Dryden. These are the only courses offered in Northwestern Ontario. Registration is online and if there isn't sufficient interest, they will not be offered.

ETFO Courses

ETFO also offers online AQ Courses at a cost of \$650 as well as face-to-face credit courses locally. For more information, go to etfo.ca under Professional Development.

Provincial Executive

The Provincial executive meets approximately 10 times throughout the year. The meetings are generally held at the Provincial Office in Toronto or at the location of Representative Council (Toronto, Airport, Mississauga, etc.) The June executive meeting will be held in Thunder Bay. The Teacher Local President, Ellen Chambers Picard and I plan to attend the meetings as observers. This will be very interesting for us as we have never been able attend because of our location.

Local PL

With the PL Fund negotiated with the Board in our last Collective Agreement, the Local was able to provide some excellent workshops. We look forward to planning more PL for next year. Suggestions are always welcome.

Our PL Executive Member, Charlotte Neckoway, is leaving for St. John's, Newfoundland next month. We really appreciated her participation on the executive as well as her work with the Local Professional Learning. We wish her well in this new adventure. I would also like to thank all the executive for their hard work and dedication to the Local. They are a great team!

Executive

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Vice-President: Nancy Calonego	475-7388
Treasurer: Nancy Calonego	
Secretary: Laurie McMillan	475-5874
P.D. Chair: Charlotte Neckoway	577-5713
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