



# Occasionally Yours

Volume 19 Issue 2

Lakehead Elementary Occasional Teachers' Local

March 2017

## From the President:

This fall the number of daily OT assignments was down from last year at the same time. Since so many new OTs were added to the list last Spring, many OTs were discouraged and concerned about the lack of work. The number of assignments has risen in the new year, resulting in some days with unfilled assignments. This leads administration to question whether more OTs need to be added to the list. I don't think that is in the best interest of OTs who want available work. The school selection option is having minimal impact on the situation, as there are a fairly small number who choose not to work at every school. Please remember to put your unavailability into the system through this link:

<https://lakehead.eschoolsolutions.com/logOnInitAction.do> This is important when schools are in need of an OT at the last minute, as they will only be calling those who are available. Also, the availability data can help HR and Programming when planning events.

## Office 365:

After the March Break, the Board will be moving to Office 365 Outlook e-mail system. If you haven't already done so, you can download Office 365 from the Staff page on the Board website. Presently, your username is your first name, underscore, last name @ hub.lakeheadschoools.ca. After the changeover, the "hub." will not be necessary. Your present password will remain the same. GroupWise will be shut down on Friday, March 10, at 4:00 p.m. More information is available on a GroupWise email dated Feb. 28.

## Local General Meeting:

The General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at the LETO office, #5-1112 Russell St. Dinner will follow the meeting. Please respond by Sunday, March 5 if you plan to attend.

## Local Collective Agreement:

The Local Collective Agreement is available on the Board website in the Staff Portal, under Human Resources. The daily rate as of Jan. 27 is \$239.00.

## LTO Benefits:

The ETFO Employee Life & Health Trust (ELHT) is a provincial benefit plan for permanent and LTO teachers. There will be a minimum number of consecutive days in an LTO to be eligible. If the LTO assignment is less than 1.0, the member can opt into the health and/or dental benefits by paying the premiums on a pro-rated basis. ETFO has been staggering the enrolment through the school year. The plan is now anticipated to be available in Lakehead on June 1, due to difficulties in data transfer across the province. Until then, LTO assignments of 8 weeks or more will continue to receive \$5.82/day.

## OCT Fee:

The OCT fee for 2017 is \$150 and must be paid by April 17. If you were in an LTO in January, check your pay stubs to ensure that payroll deducted the fee. If not, you are responsible to pay it directly to the College.

## ETFO Provincial PL:

Technology Webinars: There are 3 left this year.  
Link to info:

<http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/TechnologyWebinars.pdf>

FNMI Education Symposium: April 1, 2017.  
Registration deadline is March 6.

<http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/FNMISymposium.pdf>

ICT Conference: Technology for Teachers: April 7-8, 2017. Registration deadline is March 8.

<http://www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfoconferences/pages/default.aspx>

Seeing, Engaging and Empowering the Learner in Kindergarten Conference: April 28-29, 2017.

Registration deadline is March 22.

<http://www.etfo.ca/CalAttach/KindergartenNiagara.pdf>

## International Women's Day:

Each year since 1917, IWD has been celebrated by women around the world. It developed through labour and peace movements. It is a time to reflect on the victories of women's rights throughout history and the status of women around the world today. In some countries it is a national holiday. The Local has 5 ETFO IWD t-shirts available which will be distributed through a draw of interested members.



We have 1 small (orange), 2 medium (green), and 2 large (blue) t-shirts. Please email me with your size preference and we will have a random draw of entries received by Sunday, March 5 at midnight. The winners will receive their t-shirt on Monday evening so it will be available to be worn on IWD.

## Math AQ Subsidies:

There are still available funds provided by the Ministry of Education to subsidize certain Math, Technology and Kindergarten AQ/ABQ courses. Apparently the technology funds are nearly depleted, but may be increased in the near future. More information on the subsidies is located on the OTF website, <http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/4594-2/> This is a great opportunity for OTs to increase their qualifications without the expense associated with AQ courses. ETFO provides an extensive list of online courses. The Lakehead Board also provides face-to-face courses with some online participation.

## ETFO Bursaries and Scholarships:

ETFO offers numerous financial incentives for members, children of members, and non-members entering faculties of education, members studying at the graduate level and members upgrading their qualifications at publicly-funded universities/institutions. More information is available on the ETFO website. Application deadline is April 30, 2017. The following link provides more information: <http://www.etfo.ca/AboutETFO/AwardsandScholarships/Documents/BURSARIESandSCHOLARSHIPS2017.pdf>

## Local Executive:

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Vice-President: Charlotte Neckoway

Treasurer: Leila Desforges

Secretary: Nancy Calonego

P.L. Chair & Communications: Kristen Anderson

Past President: Jim Green

Local Website: [www.etfo-ot.ca](http://www.etfo-ot.ca)

ETFO Website: [www.etfo.ca](http://www.etfo.ca)



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