



From the President

November 2017

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – smartin@geetf.ca

The Issue of Unfilled Occasional Teacher Assignments

Our board, along with many other school boards in Ontario, is experiencing an ongoing issue of unfilled occasional teacher assignments, and to a lesser extent DECEs and EAs. I have heard from many members in all areas of our school board for the need to address this problem.

In response to your call for action, I have discussed the issues at length with the Director, with representatives from Human Resources including the Superintendent of HR, and the OT President. The multiple ways in which no-fills have a negative impact on schools have been discussed, and the need to find solutions to this problem is recognized by all. At this point in the process all options are on the table for discussion, and agreement has been reached on ways that we believe will reduce the frequency and number of unfilled assignments.

After implementing the steps that we agreed could begin to mitigate this problem, the Occasional Teachers' President and I will meet again with the Board in late January to review the statistics and to evaluate the effectiveness of those steps. Thank you for your emails and calls. I assure you that your need for solutions has been heard. Definitive, measurable action is being taken at this time.



Labour Cares

The annual Labour Cares event was held on the Saturday morning of November 4th. The GEETF along with other union groups, community groups, and local businesses, provided food assistance to those in need. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event a success.

ETFO's Second Video on Violence Reporting

ETFO has just released the second workplace safety video in a three-part series. The first video, *ETFO Takes Action on Violence in Schools*, describes the important role that ETFO members play to ensure that workplace violence incidents get reported. *Risk Assessment and Safety Plans* is the second video on workplace violence in schools. This video focuses on how the risks of violence are controlled. Please go to ETFO's Health & Safety webpage to access these excellent videos: etfohealthandsafety.ca

Woodland Cultural Centre

Save the Evidence Campaign

The Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School operated in Brantford from 1828 until its closing in 1970. It served as a boarding school for First Nations children in the effort to assimilate those children into European Christian society, and sever the continuity of culture from parent to child.

Major roof leaks to the building caused significant and costly damage to this historic building. *The Save the Evidence Campaign* was launched to raise the necessary funds for repairs and renovations to ensure the physical evidence from the dark history of Residential Schools in Canada is never forgotten.

I'm proud to inform you that the GEETF has donated \$5,000 to this fundraising campaign, secured a \$10,000 donation from ETFO, and so far has raised another \$2,400 by encouraging other ETFO teacher and occasional teacher locals to support this cause. If you would like more information please go to <http://www.woodland-centre.on.ca/save-evidence-fundraising-campaign>



Ontario Curriculum Refresh and Review of Assessment Approaches

The Ontario government recently announced a review of the curriculum and how best to assess students, including EQAO. In late November, the government is seeking the input from education stakeholders for curriculum and assessment improvements. Following the consultation process, recommendations will be provided to the government.

2018 ETFO Annual Meeting

If you would like to be a delegate to represent the GEETF at this summer's ETFO Annual Meeting, please submit your name by December 1, 2017 to Maggie (registrations@geetf.ca). Accommodations, travel and food are all covered for this meeting which will take place from August 13 to 16, 2018 in downtown Toronto.

Member Mental Health

ETFO's most recent PRS Bulletin advises members on taking care of their mental health. Please see the ETFO website under the tab 'SUPPORTING MEMBERS' to view this helpful publication.

Upcoming Events

- Nov 23 – Volleyball Workshop for gr. K to 3
- Nov 29 – CEFR Workshop for FSL teachers
- Nov 30 – Pizza & Pottery Status of Women Event
- Nov 30 – Volleyball Workshop for gr. 4 to 8
- Dec 4 – Enhancing Student Behaviour PD
- Dec 7 – Voice Care Workshop
- Dec 13 – TPA Workshop delivered by Donna Howey