



From the President

October 2017

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – smartin@geetf.ca

Heat in Schools

The recent heat wave we experienced brought the issue of overheated classrooms to the forefront again. I heard from several members about stifling classrooms and unmotivated students due to the high temperatures. The issue was widely reported in the media and the Premier and Minister of Education were asked for a response. Premier Kathleen Wynne replied that she understood that teachers and students were in very uncomfortable classrooms because of the heat and that additional funding has been provided to school boards to address this issue.

ETFO President Sam Hammond stated that 'Students and teachers in many classrooms are subject to unbearable conditions with temperatures over 30 degrees. That takes an unacceptable toll on teaching and learning.'

In response to the extreme heat and humidity, ETFO has put together an easy method for people to contact their MPP on the issue. A template letter can be found here: <http://www.buildingbetterschools.ca/heat>

The ETFO summary of political events related to overheated schools can be found on the ETFO website under the tabs ABOUT ETFO → PUBLICATIONS.

Workplace Health & Safety Training

I've heard from many teachers about the continued issues related to the health and safety training videos. Our Collective Agreement allows one half of a PD Day for teachers to do this training. The issues are the length of videos, the number of videos to watch, the unreliability of the technology, and the system not showing that the training has been successfully completed. I will continue to bring these matters to the attention of the Board and seek solutions.

ETFO Video on Violence Reporting

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, ETFO produced an excellent video for members to better understand our rights to work in a safe environment and our obligation to report violence. The video was added to the list of training videos on the Board's Portal and the expectation was that teachers would view the video then. If you've not had a chance yet to view it, I recommend doing so as it clearly states the procedures and duties to report. The video is located on ETFO's Health & Safety webpage: etfohealthandsafety.ca



Review of the TPA Process

If you've been notified that this is your year for the Teacher Performance Appraisal (you are to be notified within 20 school days of the beginning of your teaching year if you are to be assessed), then I would recommend that you read the ETFO PRS Matters Bulletin #49. It's important that the process be followed correctly and that you are prepared for a successful evaluation. An unsuccessful TPA is a stressful experience so the more you are prepared, the better. The bulletin can be found on the ETFO website under the tabs SUPPORTING MEMBERS → PRS MATTERS BULLETINS.

In addition to the PRS bulletin, ETFO has produced, '**ETFO Professional Judgement Guidelines for the Occasional Teacher Evaluation and the Teacher Performance Appraisal**', advising members on how to use their professional judgement regarding the TPA process and completing your ALP.

New! Professional Judgement Kindergarten Reporting

ETFO recently issued the '**ETFO Professional Judgement Guidelines for Completion of the Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations Report Fall 2017**'. If you are teaching JK or SK, this document is well worth a look before reports go home in November. All Professional Judgement Matters resources can be found on the ETFO website under the tabs:

SUPPORTING MEMBERS → ADVICE: MEMBERS AS PROFESSIONALS → PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

Ministry of Labour Enforcement

The Ministry of Labour will be conducting an enforcement initiative regarding workplace violence in Ontario's public school boards. Inspections will take place between October and March. The date has not yet been set for the GEDSB visit. Reps from the MOL, Federation, and Board management will meet to review and improve upon current practices to ensure workplace safety by controlling violence risks through effective violence reporting, investigation, and prevention. Clearly the call from ETFO to seriously address the unacceptable increase in violence against education workers has been heard. Reporting incidences, and ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent a future occurrence is the way to best ensure the safety of staff and other students.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 12 & 16 – First 5 Years Mini-Conference
- Oct 23 – FSL Social: Games Night en français
- Oct 25 & Nov 1 – Union Steward Training
- Oct 25 – GEETF Membership Meeting
- Nov 4 – Labour Cares: Social Justice & PA/PR event to donate food to those in need.
- Nov 13 – Crayola Workshop

