



## *From the President*

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Shawn Martin, GEETF President

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Welcome back colleagues to a new school year. At the GEETF Annual Meeting that took place in the spring we held elections for all positions on the Local Executive. Our past president, Dave Peters, retired at the end of the last school year and I was elected to the position of President. I'd like to again publicly thank Dave for all the outstanding work he did for us while he was Collective Agreement Officer, then as our President. Dave's leadership and dedication got us through to the settlement of our current collective agreement. The many hours of service he offered our membership will be remembered with much appreciation. His mentorship to prepare me for this position has been and continues to be invaluable.

After Dave moved into the presidency, Nancy D'Aurora took over Dave's former role as Collective Agreement Officer. Nancy was acclaimed to the position at our Annual Meeting. We passed some significant changes to our Local Constitution at that meeting. The title, 'Collective Agreement Officer', was changed to 'First Vice President' and we added the half-time release position of Second Vice President. Cory Judson was elected to this newly created position. Cory will be working in the GEETF office on days 1, 3 and alternate 5s and teaching at Princess Elizabeth School every other day.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and visiting your school this year. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns. Keeping your local federation office informed benefits all of our membership.

We will keep you informed of the events that affect your profession. And there are a few on the horizon... a new provincial benefit plan, implementing new provisions in our 2014-17 Collective Agreement, how our Federation will address our successful Charter challenge against the Ontario government's Bill 115 that unilaterally changed the terms of our collective agreements in 2012, etc.

A notable addition to our employment benefits in the current Collective Agreement is the clause that outlines our professional judgement (C2.5). It states that your professional judgement is informed by professional knowledge of...

- curriculum expectations and context
- evidence of learning
- methods of instruction and assessment
- criteria and standards that indicate success in student learning

Professional practice includes judgement which is a...

- purposeful and systematic thinking process that evolves in terms of accuracy and insight with ongoing reflection and self-correction

The wording in our new collective agreement acknowledges the professional status and responsibilities that you have as a teacher. If questions arise out of the use of your professional judgement, please don't hesitate to contact the GEETF office. You may also access the ETFO website under 'Advice for Members' for more information. This new clause is likely to cause a great deal of discussion as our membership exercises professional judgement balanced with the many requirements upon our profession.

A couple of other important things to keep in mind are Fifts Disease (see information below), reporting student violence and aggression, keeping an eye on health and safety in your school, and reporting any personal injuries that you may encounter (hopefully none at all!)

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. And I wish you a very successful 2016-17 school year!

*-Shawn Martin*

### **Fifts Disease, Pregnancy and Teaching**

When considering pregnancy, or upon discovering you are pregnant, please ensure your doctor orders the blood test to determine if you have immunity to Fifth's Disease (Parvovirus B19). Each year, teachers end up using sick days unnecessarily as they wait to find out if they have immunity. You can refer to GEDSB policy HR120 'Communicable Diseases' for more information.