



# From the President

November 2018

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – [smartin@geetf.ca](mailto:smartin@geetf.ca)

## PowerTeacher Pro

The roll out of the 'upgraded' report card platform has created one of the greatest upsets and stressors to our membership in many years. We all agree that the unreasonably tight timelines to both learn a new system without adequate training, and to complete reports when faced with unreliable technology, is unacceptable. I met with senior administration on multiple occasions to ensure they are aware of how poorly this change was done, and how serious the impact has been on our membership. I shared your concerns and suggestions for improvements with the Board. You received three emails from me in October to keep you updated on the actions I've taken to support you. I included links to ETFO professional judgement documents so you are fully aware of your rights and responsibilities.

I promise that I will continue to ensure that your concerns are heard and addressed by those who make these decisions. I will continue to work in a proactive manner with the Board to try to resolve issues. My sights are now on solutions before we begin term one report cards / ELK Communication of Learning. Thank you for your emails and phone calls on this issue.

## Update on Fail-to-fill OT and DECE Assignments

Unfilled Occasional Teacher and DECE assignments continue to have a serious negative impact on our membership. The last week of October and the first week of November showed a spike compared to the starting weeks of this school year. The actions taken by the Board to mitigate the number of no-fills did have a positive impact until late October. The Board has a very strict limit on the number of OTs that can be booked for PD, and as you know, teachers are either told to not attend, or called back from PD sessions if their absence isn't filled. I'm hopeful that we will soon return to the lower number of no-fills we saw earlier in the school year.

As for DECE unfilled assignments, that does remain problematic. We obviously need more OTs and replacement DECEs. We face a lack of resources because of an Education Funding formula that doesn't meet system needs. And we have a supply and demand issue. Please contact me for any school-specific concerns or questions you may have. My advice is to always put student safety first when planning a day without your DECE.

## Central Table Bargaining Survey

Your Collective Agreement expires on August 31, 2019. To prepare for the 2019 round of central bargaining, ETFO needs to know what's important to you. You will receive a personal email with a link to the survey in early November. You may be randomly called by the company running this survey, and you may offer your name to participate in a focus group. Now is the time to think about the changes you'd like to see that would improve your working conditions.

## Government Education Consultations

The Ontario government has launched its public education consultations on several topics including math, cellphone use in class and the Health & Physical Education curriculum. Consultations will close December 15, 2018. It is important for ETFO members to engage in the process. You'll notice that the wording of some of the questions indicates the government is not interested in hearing opposition to standardized testing, cell phones in the classroom, or the Parents' Bill of Rights. The government website is:

<https://www.ontario.ca/form/open-submissions-education-ontario>



## Flowchart for Reporting Workplace Violence

As school boards prepare to implement a new online process for reporting workplace violence, serious student incidents and workplace injuries and illnesses, ETFO has developed an interactive flowchart to assist members with questions about the different reporting requirements. To view the flowchart, the link is:

<http://etfohealthandsafety.ca/etfo-flowchart-for-reporting-workplace-violence-and-serious-student-incidents/>

## Afternoon of November 16th PA Day

A reminder that GEETF members are entitled to the afternoon of Nov. 16 'at their discretion'. You are expected to be available for parent-teacher interviews for 150 minutes the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup> to access this lieu time.

## Upcoming Events

**NOV 10** Labour Cares – St. Andrews United Church Brantford, 10 am – 12 pm

**NOV 11** Remembrance Day

**NOV 12 & 20** Union Steward Training

**NOV 16** PA Day

**NOV 21** Local Representative Council Meeting after school & Basketeer Donations due this day

**NOV 22** PD Workshop: What to Do When It Feels Like a Zoo

**NOV 26** PD Workshop: Voice Care