



From the President

October 2018

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Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year. Even though we've just returned, members are facing the impact of decisions made by the newly-elected PC government.

This summer saw the revocation of the 2015 Health curriculum and implementation of the amended 1998 curriculum that does not prepare students for the realities of the 21st century. In response to ETFO's position to support teachers who continue to teach the 2015 curriculum, the provincial government opened up a 'snitch line' so parents may report on teachers who violate the government's decision. The process of consulting with the public on education issues, including the curriculum, has begun. For more information, you can access the government website at

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>

It's important that ETFO members express their views to the government. We need to ensure that the informed opinion of those on the front lines of education services be heard by this government before decisions are made that impact on our profession.

The cancellation of the \$100 million school infrastructure funding will delay needed improvements to our schools. The government's abrupt pause of an Indigenous writing team to develop learning activities to assist educators to authentically represent FNMI realities is very concerning. You will be kept informed through emails from ETFO and updates from your local.

GEETF General Membership Meeting October 24th After School

The local General Membership Meeting is Wednesday October 24th at the Best Western Brant Park Inn in Brantford. This venue can accommodate a large group. We will elect your new Collective Bargaining Committee, pass the 2018-19 Budget, receive the report of the Ad Hoc Committee for On-site Childcare, get updates on current issues, and have the opportunity to ask questions of your released officers. Our organization requires the active participation of its members. We hope to see you there.

Light refreshments will be available from 4:30 p.m. with a 5:00 p.m. start time. There is no dinner to follow this meeting. Please register using the calendar on the GEETF website by Oct. 19.

Trustee All-Candidates Forums

The GEETF is hosting two events for members and the public at large to hear from those running for the position of trustee for the GEDSB.

Candidates will each give a 3-minute presentation followed by an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions of candidates. Our Political Action Committee has already sent questions to candidates and their responses have been forwarded to union stewards. The location of the forums are as follows:

- ❖ **Wednesday, October 3rd: 6 – 8:30 p.m.** at the Brantford & District Civic Centre and
- ❖ **Thursday, October 4th: 6 – 8:30 p.m.** at Waterford District High School

Project Overseas 2019



Applications are now being accepted for teachers to participate in Project Overseas. This is a summer volunteer opportunity to travel to another land and share your professional skills with others. More information and the application can be found on the ETFO website under the 'Building a Just Society' tab.

Diagnostic Assessments

Teachers are expected to use diagnostic assessment based on their professional judgement to inform teaching and learning in their classrooms. Members will use their professional judgement to determine which tools from the board list, which students, and the timing of such diagnostic assessments to best meet the needs of the students in their classrooms. Members should be prepared to provide evidence and documentation of their use of diagnostic assessment.

Administrators cannot direct members to perform diagnostic assessment in a manner that is contrary to the member's professional judgement. Members cannot be directed to use a specific tool to administer assessments to specific students, or to complete an assessment by a specific date.

Upcoming Events

- OCT 03 Trustee All-Candidates Event
- OCT 05 World Teachers' Day
- OCT 08 Thanksgiving Holiday
- OCT 11 First 5 Years Bowling
- OCT 15 FSL Social – Games Night
- OCT 22 Municipal Elections
- OCT 22 New Member Program
- OCT 24 GEETF Membership Meeting
- OCT 25 Professional Development
One Note Workshop