



From the President

October 2019

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Central Strike Votes and Bargaining

Thank you to members who attended our Central Strike Vote on October 16th. I'd especially like to thank our local Executive members, our CB team, Union Stewards and others who volunteered that evening. We couldn't have done this without you.

ETFO Vice President David Mastin made the trip to Grand Erie to bring us the message from Provincial Executive. It is essential that we come together and stand united in solidarity. The Ford government's funding cuts, the changes made, and potential changes this government will make to public Education must be opposed.

Now is the time for us to speak with one voice across education unions that we will not sit idly by while this government reduces services, ignores pressing needs, and attempts to get \$150 million in 'savings' from ETFO teachers.

All Central strike votes will be concluded by the end of October and we will know the result shortly thereafter. Please ensure that ETFO and the GEETF have your most current personal email address so you're getting updates.

ETFO Applied for Conciliation

On the same day we took our local vote for Central strike action, ETFO applied for conciliation. Our Central Bargaining team determined that we are too far apart from the proposals put forth by OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards' Association), the CTA (Council of Trustees' Associations) and the government to continue to try to negotiate a tentative agreement.

We have not had the answers we need regarding sick leave, salary, benefits, additional supports for special education and the Kindergarten model. The Ministry of Labour will appoint a conciliation officer who will work with the parties to try to start the process of meaningful bargaining.

Please have a look at the ETFO Collective Bargaining website. This can be found at etfocb.ca.

Local Collective Bargaining Update

Your local bargaining committee has met on several occasions to prepare for negotiations with our school board. The local bargaining survey is open for members until October 30. Please complete this quick survey to inform your local bargaining team. We need to know how you feel about the issues and want to hear your ideas. This survey is one way you can have input into the Preliminary Submission. When that submission is ready, your CB Committee will arrange information sessions to present this for your approval.

**ETFO FILES FOR
CONCILIATION:
FAQS**

Conciliation

To bring two disputing sides together to discuss the problem with the aim of reaching an agreement.

School Visits by Released Officers

Your local Released Officers have begun school visits. We are starting this term with our Norfolk schools. Nancy, Cory and Shawn are looking forward to meeting with you during one of your nutritional breaks to hear your concerns, provide updates and answer any questions you may have.

RED for Ed Local T-Shirts

The 'Red for Ed' campaign to defend public education continues from last school year. Order forms were sent out to Union Stewards. Any member who would like a free local RED for Ed T-shirt will receive one. When the order arrives around mid-November we'll make arrangements to get T-shirts out to your school.

Every Day Mental Health Classroom Resource

Educators have a very important role to play in promoting mental health and well-being at school. This resource is designed to support elementary educators (K-8) by offering high-quality everyday mental health practices that can be easily incorporated into classroom routines.

This on-line resource is the result of a collaboration between ETFO and School Mental Health ASSIST and was reviewed by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. *The Everyday Mental Health Classroom Resource* has been informed by evidence and co-created with practicing educators to ensure that it meets the needs of busy teachers. This resource has also been translated into French. It can be found at

<https://smh-assist.ca/emhc/>

BMS Training

Members have been contacting me for advice regarding BMS training. ETFO has consistently discouraged members from physically intervening with students. Engaging in physical contact puts members in jeopardy of personal injury, possibly injuring a student and/or facing discipline resulting from allegations of abuse. ETFO's advice is available to members in two PRS Matters bulletins: *The Vulnerable Special Education Teacher* and *Use of Restraint Advice to Members*. Those bulletins can be found on the ETFO webpage under the tab 'Supporting Members'.

GEETF Calendar of Events

Please have a look at upcoming events on the GEETF calendar at geetf.ca. Through the calendar you can access event flyers and registration details.

Oct. 30 – General Membership Meeting

Nov. 4 – *Planning for an Effective Literacy Block* workshop

Nov. 6 and 13 – *GEETFeet* Dance Club (in Haldimand)

Nov. 7 – *Creating Caring Classrooms* workshop

Saturday, Nov. 9 – Labour Cares Community Food Sharing Event

Nov. 11 – Teachers Musical Exchange

Nov. 13 – *Crayola STEAM* workshop

Nov. 18 – FSL Committee hosts *Chef à l'École* workshop

Nov. 20 – Local Representative Council meeting

Nov. 21 – Arts Committee hosts *Calendar Making* workshop

Nov. 28 – *FSL Classroom Management* workshop