

Collective Agreement News

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Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation



Special points of interest:

- Bargaining Begins...
- Benefit Update
- Important August pay info
- Provincial Vote Results
- Trial Mailing
- Schedule/Timetable info

Benefit Update: Correction

On March 1st, our LTD plan was renewed. Due to an error on OTIP's behalf, the Posaction Plus component of the premium was not included for March and April. To rectify this problem, we have agreed that the rate for September to February will be changed from 1.726% to 1.745%, which for an \$80 000 salary would work out to approx. \$1.52/month. Hopefully this will not be too much of a challenge for some members. On the bright side, remember that for June we did have a "benefit holiday" mentioned in the last newsletter.



GEETF "Graduates" 2012. Good luck in the next phase of your career—retirement!



Control Your Future

Collective Bargaining 2012



Bargaining Begins.....

On Monday, June 18th, the GEETF met with the GEDSB to initiate this round of bargaining, as per the requirement under the *Labour Relations Act* to meet within 15 days of submitting our Notice of Intent to Bargain letter on June 1st. The first meeting was fairly short. Introductions were made, dates were set in the fall for real bargaining, and some discussion about, and establishment of, ground rules took place.

Under the *Education Act*, ETFO as a provincial body holds the bargaining right for all of its bargaining units. As a result of the political climate, all Locals have been entered into Provincial Takeover, which also occurred in 2004 and 2008. Takeover provides an enhanced level of material, financial and human resources to locals to assist with the bargaining process. Essentially, Provincial Takeover is a system of supports to enable locals to reach strong, fair, and enforceable collective agreements.

The structure of bargaining changes slightly under Provincial Takeover. The bargaining team is reduced in size—the Grand Erie Takeover Team consists of; Carolyn Walker (ETFO Negotiator), Donna Howey (President, GEETF), Dave Peters (CAO and Chief Negotiator, GEETF), Geri Turkoski (1st VP, GEETF), Nancy D'Aurora (Deputy CAO, GEETF), and Shawn Martin (Treasurer, GEETF). In addition, during Takeover, Anne Rodrigue is appointed to the GEETF from the Provincial Office to serve in the role as Strike Coordinator. Anne's role is to work with the Takeover team and the local to help map out an overall mobilization strategy.

Members will be kept abreast of bargaining progress through the ETFO Provincial Takeover Bulletin that will be sent to all members during negotiations. We ask that you respect the role of the Takeover Team members by not asking them for "inside" information during the process, placing them in a difficult position. They will not be able to provide information other than what is in the bulletins. Information that is prematurely leaked can derail negotiations that, at the best of times, can be tenuous.



Control Your Future Website

You can access the latest bargaining information, bargaining history, download screensavers, download apps, participate in polls, view videos, etc. by going on a website dedicated to this round of bargaining. All this information can be found at;

www.controlyourfuture.ca

FINAL NOTICE!!!

Payment information:

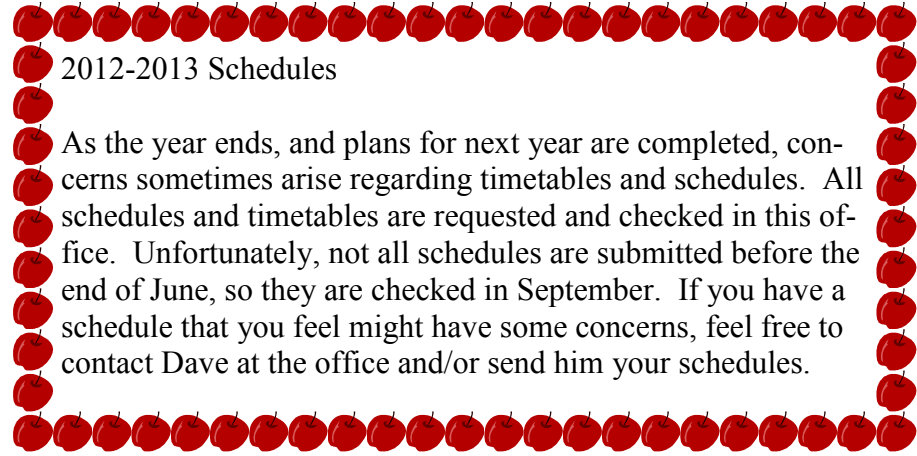
A reminder to be prepared this August. The last pay for 2011-2012 will occur on August 9th. The first pay for 2012-2013 will occur on August 30th. This is a three week period between the two pays.

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We can also be contacted through FirstClass.



2012-2013 Schedules

As the year ends, and plans for next year are completed, concerns sometimes arise regarding timetables and schedules. All schedules and timetables are requested and checked in this office. Unfortunately, not all schedules are submitted before the end of June, so they are checked in September. If you have a schedule that you feel might have some concerns, feel free to contact Dave at the office and/or send him your schedules.

All-Member Vote Results

As of Friday, June 22nd, the votes have been counted and Provincial President Sam Hammond informed all locals of the results of the province-wide all-member vote. The result of the count is...93% in favour! This overwhelming majority is a testament to the resolve of ETFO members, and proves to the Premier and the government that our members are ready and prepared to protect their collective agreements and defend their legal collective bargaining rights. The results and additional information should be posted on the Control Your Future website by the time you read this message.

Trial Email

As the summer approaches, and things become increasingly interesting on the political front, it becomes important that this office has a method of communicating with all GEETF members. As well, in the event that we lose our present method of communicating with members and/or while the Board makes changes to the email system, we need to be prepared to have alternate plans. To this end, we are very close to having all members on our electronic contact list, using personal email addresses as opposed to FirstClass.

Early next week, we will attempt a trial email run to those personal addresses, using an online mailing program. We are using this method because we hope to be able to track the results with the program. As with any new technology, we are not sure how it will work. So, we are hoping that each school can also indicate our success by tracking the results manually. We will be sending out an electronic version of the first ETFO Provincial Takeover Bulletin. Please let your Steward know if you received the Bulletin at home, and she/he will indicate on a list, and forward the information to the GEETF office by Thursday.

And finally.....

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer. GEETF members are dedicated professionals who work incredibly hard for their students. I believe parents, students, and the GEDSB are generally aware of this fact, and appreciate all you do!