

O.S.S.T.F. Rainbow District 3  
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**January 2018**



# THE LINK



## *Dates of Interest:*



*Jan 8: Return to class*

*Jan 11: OTBU Meeting  
4:00 pm*

*Jan 15: PSSP Meeting  
4:00 pm*

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## **President's Message: Local Bargaining**

Sue has sent a short questionnaire to all members in preparation for Harvey Bischof's visit to D3. This list of questions contains a number of important items. OSSTF is looking for feedback on what you believe to be important bargaining issues for the next round, what your level of engagement is at the local level, how you normally attain your information from OSSTF, as well as your thoughts on local vs. central bargaining. I would like to discuss this with you.

The level of participation in our bargaining process has been limited not only by a low level of engagement on behalf of our members, but it has most recently been affected by the change legislated by the Wynne government. We are now bound to bargaining separately for central and

**Jan 17: Harvey  
Bischof - Worksite  
Meetings** →

**Lasalle SS 7:30 - 8:15  
am**

**Lockerby CS 11-11:50  
am**

**Sudbury SS 2:30-  
3:15pm**

**Jan 17: District Executive  
Meeting 4:00 pm**

**Jan 22: Human Rights  
Meeting 4:00  
pm**

**Jan 23: Health & Safety  
Meeting 4:00  
pm**

**Jan 24: TBU Meeting  
4:00 pm**

**Jan 28: Curling for a  
Cause**

local issues. This makes it challenging because the central issues to be bargained first need to be decided at the provincial level between the government, OPSBA and OSSTF, and then we begin bargaining local issues. We have not bargained local issues since 2008, unless you believe that the mediated session we went through last round counts for real bargaining, and I don't.

Please take the time to answer the questions sent to you and give us your feedback. This is the only way we can regain our right to local bargaining regarding issues that are important to us in D3. Responding to these questions, and attending the upcoming meeting in January if you are able, will go a long way to identifying not only that we have specific issues we want dealt with, but that we are the rightful representatives that should be bargaining locally to address our issues of concern.

### District Officer's Message

As members' expectations around access to information increase, the OSSTF District 3 office is working to improve the relevance and content of our local website. We encourage all members to take some time to become familiar with the website at [www.d03.osstf.ca](http://www.d03.osstf.ca). There's a great overview of the website in the December 2017 edition of The LINK – thank you, Donna McKinnon! You can find it under the "Information" tab on the menu bar.

### Recent additions to the website:

Check out the new additions under the "Bargaining Units" tab. We have placed **quick reference charts** for the collective agreements for the Teacher Bargaining Unit, Occasional Teacher Bargaining Unit, Educational Support Services Bargaining Unit, and the Professional Student Services Personnel under the corresponding tabs. Use these charts to locate where to find information about central and local items in your collective agreements.

**Supports for Struggling Members** is a concise list of various types of supports available through the Rainbow District School Board (EAP), OSSTF, and the OTIP LTD plan. You can find this under "Member Wellness" after clicking on the "Information" tab on the main page. We are currently working on a quick reference page that explains what to do if you have been injured in the workplace. It should be up soon. Stay tuned!

Sue Melville, District Officer.

[www.d03.osstf.ca](http://www.d03.osstf.ca)





## Meet your OSSTF Executive!!

**We hope you are enjoying “meeting” your OSSTF District 3 Representatives. This month’s feature Rep is Jill Beer – District Rep at Espanola High School. Meet Jill...**

Hello everyone!

I am Jill Beer and I teach math and business at Espanola High School. I've had the pleasure of teaching in elementary school at Little Current Public School and Chelmsford Valley District Composite School before coming to OSSTF. I've taught in the secondary panel at CVDCS and LDSS as well as at EHS. I first got involved in OSSTF as a teacher representative on the Status of Women committee. I was then invited to start attending District Meeting as EHS's school representative. I'm trying to think about how long it has been... 10 years maybe?



Since then I have gotten actively involved in Health and Safety issues after an incident of workplace violence. I am now one of EHS's health and safety inspectors. I sit as chair on the District's Health and Safety Committee, am a member of the RDSB's Joint Health and Safety Committee and sit on the OSSTF Provincial Health and Safety Committee. I believe that everyone should go home safely at the end of every workday and that we should not be subjected to violence at our work sites.

Participation in the union has enabled me to take additional courses that has led to certification as an instructor for the Workers Health and Safety Center. I've also had the opportunity to go to AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly). Being involved on a provincial committee has led me to a better appreciation of the work that goes on behind the scenes to strengthen our union as a whole – much of that work being done voluntarily outside of our regular school work.

It's a new year. Make a resolution to get involved. Standing committees cover a wide range of interests: health and safety, human rights, political action, educational services, status of women, and so much more. Talk to your bargaining unit representative or call the OSSTF office. We'd love to have you participate. It makes us stronger.

Jill Beer  
Espanola High School  
B.Eng. Mgt., B.Ed., MBA, P.Eng.



## ESSU – Educational Support Staff: ON THE MOVE

2018 brings many changes to support staff in Rainbow District. Please join us in welcoming them to their new positions.

- Lansdowne PS:** Elementary Administrative Assistant - Kathy Crowe
- Princess Anne PS:** Elementary Administrative Assistant - April Smith
- Lasalle SS:** Senior Administrative Assistant Secondary - Cindy Harbottle
- CVDCS:** Senior Administrative Assistant Secondary - Donna Viianen
- Finance Clerk:** Kristina Pardaens
- Chelmsford:** Elementary Administrative Assistant - Alicia Marshall
- Redwood/Adamsdale:** Library Clerk: - Samantha Baulch

**Raffle**  
**OSSTF D3 Human Rights/Equity Committee in support of United Way**  
 Donate \$1 - get a chance to win this anti-bullying t-shirt, courtesy of the D3 Human Rights Committee!  
**Collection box located in staff area**



## OTIP Sponsorship of School Projects and Initiatives

Do you have a project or initiative that you would like to acquire some funding for? (Control +) Click here to see what types of projects are supported by this program. The program is open from October 15, 2017 until March 1, 2018

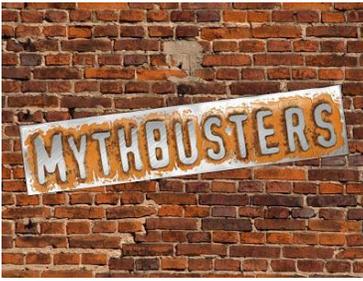
**OTIP Sponsorship of School Projects and Initiatives**

OTIP is giving away eight awards of \$5,000 to support projects and initiatives in Ontario schools. Submit a short video and you could be our next winner!

**ENTER TODAY AT**  
**OTIP.COM/INITIATIVES**

OTIP RAE.O.

Within the education community, there are many member-led school projects or initiatives that support learning, provide an enriched experience or help those in need. OTIP Sponsorship of School Projects and Initiatives is an opportunity for our members to submit a video application to win \$5,000 toward their project



## 5 common car insurance myths (debunked!)

We're not sure who's "fuelling" all these auto insurance myths, but there's certainly a lot of false information circulating about what contributes to your car insurance rates.

From red cars to white lies, many of these car insurance myths are not only inaccurate but also have the power to prevent you from purchasing the vehicle you want and getting the insurance rates you deserve.

**Allow us to clear the air. Here are 5 common car insurance myths debunked:**



**MYTH: Thieves target new cars.**

**FACT:** While no car is immune to the possibility of theft, it tends to be the slightly older, more common models that are the biggest targets.

According to the [Insurance Bureau of Canada](#), which compiles a list of the top 10 most stolen vehicles in Canada each year, the 2007 Ford F350 was the top stolen vehicle in 2016. Behind it were Ford F350 models for the years 2006 through 2003. The more common the vehicle, the easier it is to sell for parts. This is just one of the reasons why thieves often go for older vehicles.

[Get a quote now to find out if you could be saving money on your car insurance](#)

**MYTH: Red cars cost more to insure.**

**FACT:** There are at least 99 factors that go into determining your auto insurance rate, but the colour of your car isn't one.



There is some stigma associated with red cars in particular. Many studies have been conducted on whether or not red cars are involved in more accidents, but results remain inconclusive. Though the colour red can be associated with anger, aggression and audaciousness, it is not a variable that is taken into consideration when determining your auto insurance rate.



**MYTH: A cheaper car equals cheaper insurance rates.**

**FACT:** A cheaper car payment doesn't necessarily mean a cheaper car insurance rate. When insurers are determining your rate, they are looking at your driving record as well as the insurance record of the make and model of your vehicle.



Not so cheap 😊

Certain vehicles are more prone to claims such as theft, which means they might cost a little more to insure. Many newer cars have enhanced safety features, which can result in a lower rate.

When purchasing a new vehicle, it is worthwhile to [compare insurance quotes](#) to see which vehicle will have lower insurance rates.



**MYTH: All car insurance policies are the same.**

FACT: In Ontario, drivers legally must hold an auto insurance policy that meets minimum provincial standards. However, depending on your driving history, your chosen deductible, any additional coverage and a number of other factors, your policy could vary vastly from another driver's both in terms of coverage and cost.

At OTIP, we work closely with a variety of insurance companies to ensure you're not only getting the mandatory car insurance coverage, but also the coverage that is right for you.

**MYTH: The higher the insurance rate the greater the insurance coverage.**

FACT: The insurance industry in Ontario is private and each insurance company offers its own rates. Although the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) is responsible for regulating the insurance industry in the province including the rates, the private system results in a variance in insurance rates offered by different insurers.

FSCO recommends shopping for car insurance with a broker like OTIP. At OTIP, we are partnered with numerous insurance providers across the province, which gives us the ability to find the best rate for you at a company that values the education sector.

If you have questions about your auto insurance or any of the myths above, please don't hesitate to give us a call at [1-866-523-4111](tel:1-866-523-4111) to learn more.

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MORE?**



**Members!!!! Check out the new link to OTIP OSSTF members page:**

**<https://www.otipinsurance.com/OSSTF3>**