

O.S.S.T.F. Rainbow District 3  
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NOVEMBER  
2017



# THE LINK



## Dates of Interest:

Nov 1: District Meeting  
4:00pm

Nov 8: ESSU Meeting  
4:00pm

Nov 9: OTBU Meeting  
4:00pm

Nov 11: Remembrance Day



## Index

- 1 President's Message – OTBU Workgroup / MoL
- 2 OSSTF Standing Committees
- 3 **\*\*New to the LINK** - Meet your OSSTF Representatives

## President's Message

### Occasional Teacher Work Group

There has been a workgroup created that will focus solely on the OSSTF OTBU.

The mandate of the work group includes:

- Gathering and analyzing information about Occasional Teacher work-related issues;
- Making recommendations to the Provincial Executive about issues specific to Occasional Teachers;
- Providing input on more effective ways to engage Occasional Teacher members; and
- Providing input on an internal OSSTF/FEESO campaign to raise awareness of the important role of Occasional Teachers in the education system.

I will post results from this workgroup when the final report is submitted.

*Nov 15: Council of Teachers Meeting 4:00pm*

*Nov 17: PD Day*

*Nov 21: Health & Safety Meeting 4:00pm*

*Nov 23: Status of Women "Fall Gathering" 4:00pm*

*Nov 24: Deadline for registration for Children's Christmas Party on Dec 10th*

*Nov 28: OTIP Retirement Workshop*



## **Ministry of Labour Field Consultations**

The Ministry of Labour will be sending a letter to every school board in Ontario informing them of upcoming field consultations. These meetings are arguably a direct result of OSSTF lobbying efforts at Queen's Park in the spring of 2017.

Three representatives of the Ministry of Labour will be visiting every school board in Ontario between October 16, 2017 and March 16, 2018 to discuss workplace violence programs and procedures. The information that I have been receiving from members regarding violent incidents has been very helpful informing me prior to these consultations. Thank you.

To initiate the meeting, the school boards are to invite union representatives who are knowledgeable about the issue to attend this meeting, and they are to consult with the Joint Health and Safety Committee about who this may include.

This is a very positive show of support from the Ministry of Labour for the OSSTF campaign against violence in our workplaces. I look forward to the consultations and will post results when the meeting has been completed.

Thank you again for being a part of the solution to an escalating problem.

## **Standing Committees:**

We are currently under-represented on many of our Standing Committees.

The District 3 goal is to have one representative from each school on each Committee to address the issues and initiatives of each Committee.

## **Not sure what our Standing Committees are or how you should be involved? Here is a summary of the Committees.**

**The Human Rights Committee** – has a local, as well as an international perspective. Locally we try to increase the awareness and understanding of human rights issues with our membership. This involves training sessions, creation of resources and every now and then a social event. On the international side, OSSTF offers opportunities to raise money and awareness for causes close to your heart in relation to education around the world. In the past, we have had members go to Nicaragua and Ethiopia to assist with building a library and creating more sustainable education environments. We have really tried hard to educate members about the plight of a variety of people around the world who are in need of assistance.

**Ed Services Committee** – provides input to the RDSB for professional development for our members, may become involved in the planning and organizing of PD events with the board. Members of the committee are responsible for reviewing and approving applications by D3 members for funding of educational courses not funded through the employer.

**CPAC Committee** – Communications & Political Actions Committee – this committee focuses on bringing communication and political action information about various events to the worksite. The committee is responsible for contributing and publishing the District 3 Newsletter, The Rock, at least once per semester and is also responsible for selecting the recipients of the D3 Citizenship Bursaries awarded annually to children of OSSTF D3 members in their graduating year of high school – the committee meets 2 – 3 times per year.

**WE ACCOMPLISH  
MORE  
WHEN WE ALL WORK  
TOGETHER**



**Status of Women Committee** – provides a forum for raising awareness and addressing issues relevant to women. The Status of Women Committee meets 5 times per year and holds 2 functions annually – the Spring and Fall Gatherings with interactive presentations from women within the community. The committee also collects and prepares donations for the Christmas Adopt-a-Family campaign.

**Health & Safety Committee** – The H&S representative brings local Health & Safety concerns to the D3 H&S Committee as well as distributing H&S information at the work site. Reps will be involved in monthly school inspections and should be allotted time at the monthly staff meetings to discuss information channelled down from OSSTF D3 H&S meetings.



**If you are passionate about any of these initiatives and would enjoy meeting other OSSTF members for dinner and conversations on these topics, PLUS get paid for your mileage and childcare (if applicable), contact James or Sue at 705-692-3923**

### **OTIP “Walk into Retirement with a Plan” Workshop Nov 28, 2018**

Caruso Club - 385 Haig St., Sudbury 4:30 – 7:30

**Retiring in the next 5 years? Have questions about retirement benefits and finances? This complimentary workshop will have the answers.**

Register on line at [www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events)

### **Curling for a Cause – January 28, 2018 at the Coniston Curling Club**

Get your team together! Deadline for registration is Dec 15, 2017 – please email Sue Melville with your team name and members.

[Sue.melville@d03.osstf.ca](mailto:Sue.melville@d03.osstf.ca)

### **Children’s Christmas Party – December 10, 2017 at the D3 Office, 184 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lively**

Deadline for registration: Nov 24/17

\$5.00 per child – a visit from Santa and a gift

For each registered child.

Contact Donna - [osstf@d03.osstf.ca](mailto:osstf@d03.osstf.ca)



### **Meet your OSSTF Representatives!!**

**Your OSSTF Member Representatives are an important piece of the team for District 3. Going Forward, The LINK will feature a Rep from one of the D3 Bargaining Units.**

GET  
INVOLVED!

This month Sarah Cormier, from Barrydowne College, has kindly volunteered to be the first to share her story in the LINK.

This is Sarah...

Hello everyone! I'm Sarah Cormier and I teach Art, English, Native Studies, Film and Special Education at Barrydowne College. I enjoy teaching the students who had difficulty succeeding in a traditional school. The flexibility of the schedule here lets me do fun projects like large group paintings for the school to participate in, helping with the photography skills competition and running the art workshop for Dare to Stand Out!



I am also the **Teacher Bargaining Unit Representative** for my staff. I joined the TBU a year and a half ago and find it so valuable. I get to learn about the union initiatives and bargaining process first hand, meet people from other schools and from the provincial team in Toronto, and enjoy a nice hot meal at the same time! I feel like I have a much better understanding of OSSTF and how it works now that I've started attending meetings. Come join us!

Sarah Cormier  
Barrydowne College  
Visual Art, Fashion, Writers Craft, Special Education, BFA, BEd

## 5 Cheap ways to revamp your living room

Our living rooms are often the center of our homes. They're where we relax, entertain, unwind, spend time with friends and family, sit down with a good book, enjoy popcorn and a movie, and so much more. They're called *living* rooms after all!

When you spend so much time in a space, it makes sense that you might be feeling the need to shake things up. If your living room is in need of a makeover but you don't necessarily have the budget for a major overhaul, don't worry. There are dozens of ways to freshen up and breathe new life into your space without having to roll-up all those coins stuck between the couch cushions.

Here are five budget-friendly ways to revamp your living room.

Visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article6](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article6) to read the full article.



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your friends and family!**



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*EdVantage!*

## Share the GoodLife!

Buy a discounted one-year GoodLife membership and you'll be automatically entered to receive one of two iPads AND a free membership to share with a friend or family member! PLUS: Purchase a new membership for your spouse and/or children between the ages of 12 and 25 and receive more chances to win!

### How to purchase your membership:

Use your Edvantage number to log into the GoodLife membership portal. Click "Purchase New GoodLife Membership" and follow the steps to complete your purchase and be automatically entered!



**Get started!**

**Not sure of your *EdVantage* membership number – simple contact the D3 office... 705-692-3923 and speak to Donna or email the office [osstf@d03.osstf.ca](mailto:osstf@d03.osstf.ca)**

### OSSTF Rainbow District 3

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