



Stewards: Please  
Post

# ADETFO INFO

September 2010

EDITED BY  
DOUG COULTER

## A Message from the President...

By now July is just a distant memory for all of us! We've jumped back in with both feet and reorganization is already right around the corner. Aside from the new pace of our lives, many positive things are happening. Most importantly, all of our colleagues who were on recall have been placed in new positions and we're even in a position to hire a few new members! Over the summer, ETFO has become a leading provider of online AQ courses and hundreds of teachers accessed quality courses at a fraction of the cost of Ministry courses. ETFO and ADSB are making plans to form a partnership to deliver a valuable workshop for new teachers. Funding is available to members who wish to attend professional development workshops/conferences this year. A workshop for New Stewards is in the works along with a Pregnancy & Parental Leave workshop for anyone who may be thinking of starting a family within the next five years. Several improvements to your benefit package became effective Sept. 1, 2010. There is an increase in vision care, eye exams and coverage for a portion of the cost of laser eye surgery. In addition, changes to paramedical coverage is now in effect. Of particular interest is the increase in the per visit max. for massage and the new maximum for your choice of services. Please refer to Article 16.2.6 (b) or pg. 17 of your collective agreement. ETFO's active lobbying resulted in every Early Learning Program being staffed with qualified teachers. The ELP classes are up and running and we are excited about our partnerships with ECE colleagues. A series of new Kindergarten resources have been developed and are available through Shop ETFO. The opportunities/resources available to you through your union are endless.

Aside from all of the wonderful things that are happening, we never have a shortage of challenges ahead of us. By now, you have heard about the proposed wage restraint. Watch for updates on this topic in the near future. Once again, solidarity will prove to be our biggest asset.

Be kind to yourself this year and be proud of your profession. You belong to the largest teacher union (over 76,000 ETFO members.) Think about getting involved in ETFO this year – you will find many rewards and leadership possibilities. Most importantly, don't lose sight of the fact that you are making a difference in the lives of children even on the days when you may feel that you're not!

*Kelly*

## FYI:

Our team can respond to members' questions quickly via e-mail.

Kelly Holley- [adetfopres@shaw.ca](mailto:adetfopres@shaw.ca)

Doug Coulter- [adetfovp@shaw.ca](mailto:adetfovp@shaw.ca)

Kitty Zorzi- [kzorzi@shaw.ca](mailto:kzorzi@shaw.ca)

## AGM Highlights:

This past August 16,17,18,19, ETFO held its Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Centre in Toronto.

The event was attended by nearly 600 delegates plus alternates. Sam Hammond, ETFO President, sent a strong message to all members that the government has already passed legislation to include wage freezes for the first two years of our next contract. He also outlined ETFO's Fall campaign entitled "Our members know best", which is a strategic campaign aimed at removing EQAO testing and replacing it with random sampling. Other keynote speakers included:

\*Education Minister – Leona Dombrowsky

### Social Justice speakers:

\*Lieutenant Governor – David C. Onley

\*Grand Chief – Stan Beardy,

\*Canadian Teachers' Federation President – Mary Lou Donnelly

\*Ontario NDP Leader, Andrea Horwath.

Local members attending the AGM included delegates: Kari Buie, Doug Coulter, Kelly Holley and Lee-Ann Matteau. Alternates included: Marla Adamson Barber, Susan Johnson and Darlene Mead. Don Laity and Peter Mead attended as Occasional Teacher delegates. Susan Ritchie attended in a functionary role.

For further information about AGM highlights of other federation updates go to:

[www.etfo.ca](http://www.etfo.ca)

## Progress Report Guidelines:

The following are guideline highlights that have been taken from the first PRS Matters mail out for this year. (Please see your Steward for the full text.)

1. The term "teachers professional judgment" is used consistently throughout the "Growing Success" document. Teachers do not need to comment on every subject or learning skill.
2. The term "personalized comments" does not mean that every student must have a different comment.
3. A process should be in place for all teachers who instruct a classroom to have the opportunity to include comments on the progress report if he/she requests to.
4. Completion of the progress report should not be the sole responsibility of the home-room classroom.
5. Teachers are NOT required to completely fill the comment boxes.
6. Comments should be general rather than specific.
7. Comments may be written in full sentences or in point form. Individual boards and schools may make decisions about this format.
8. The inclusion of appropriate comments should be considered when "Progressing with Difficulty" is checked off for a student.
9. Space for Board information and Space designated for Board on the progress report card is to be completed by the school board not the teacher.
10. IEP's need to be created and in place within 30 school days of the start of the students program, typically the first day of school.

AQ's were a hit!

This summer AQ courses offered by ETFO were the MOST used of any provider! As well, registration for the fall courses has been excellent. The feedback from the courses has been very positive.

If you are interested in seeing what is available, check out the following website:

[www.etfo-aq.ca](http://www.etfo-aq.ca)

## YOUR PD FUNDS AT WORK:

This past August, ADETFO member Lee-Ann Matteau was able to chair a "Women's Only" members' caucus meeting at the ETFO annual general meeting held in Toronto. Here is what she had to say:

"I was very grateful for the ADETFO funds to allow me this leadership opportunity. I was able to chair the "Women's Only" caucus which was attended by 100 ETFO members attending the AGM. These funds made it possible for me to fill in for the chair of our provincial committee who was not able to attend. Thank you!

LeeAnn Matteau

## TO ALL ADETFO STAFF:

Your Steward has been sent a staff list for all permanent ADETFO staff members. Please see you steward as soon as possible to complete your information. It is important that we maintain current records in the event that we need to make a pyramid call.

Thank you,  
Kitty Zorzi,

**ACTION REQUIRED**

## UPCOMING:

ADETFO will be hosting a  
**Pregnancy & Parental Workshop**



On Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at Sandro's Family Restaurant from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
More details to follow.