



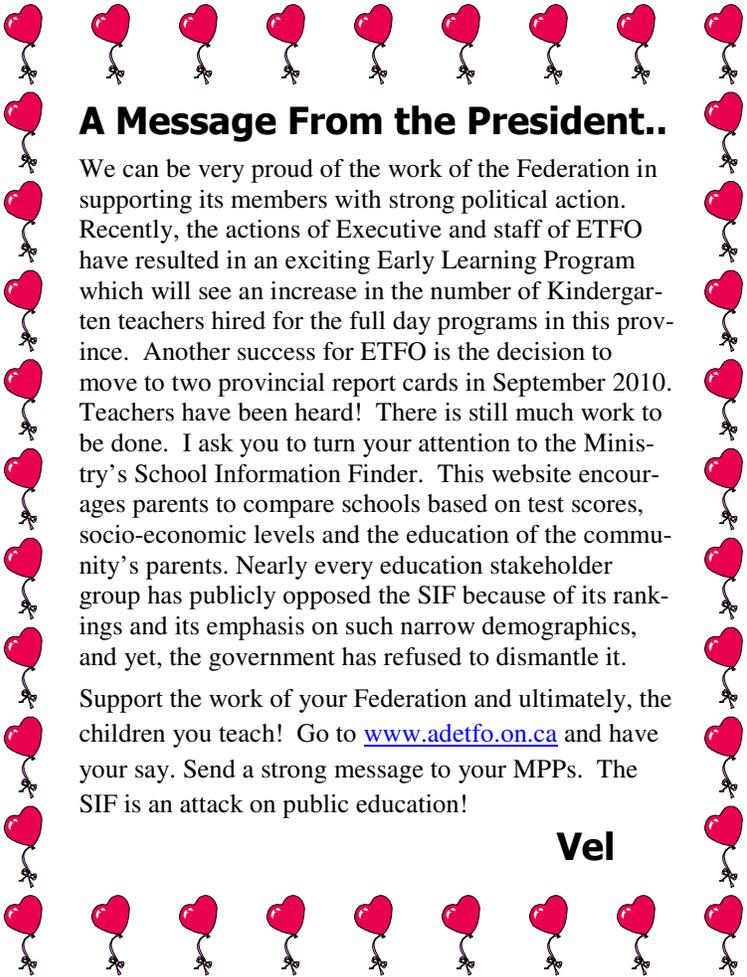
ADETFO INFO

Stewards:
Please Post

February 2010

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Start your day with a question...what would make this day more soulful for me? Try to think of something, however small, that would make your day at work brighter and more interesting.



A Message From the President..

We can be very proud of the work of the Federation in supporting its members with strong political action. Recently, the actions of Executive and staff of ETFO have resulted in an exciting Early Learning Program which will see an increase in the number of Kindergarten teachers hired for the full day programs in this province. Another success for ETFO is the decision to move to two provincial report cards in September 2010. Teachers have been heard! There is still much work to be done. I ask you to turn your attention to the Ministry's School Information Finder. This website encourages parents to compare schools based on test scores, socio-economic levels and the education of the community's parents. Nearly every education stakeholder group has publicly opposed the SIF because of its rankings and its emphasis on such narrow demographics, and yet, the government has refused to dismantle it.

Support the work of your Federation and ultimately, the children you teach! Go to www.adetfo.on.ca and have your say. Send a strong message to your MPPs. The SIF is an attack on public education!

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STAFFING

February 28—Deadline for requesting retirement gratuities. (Central Algoma and Sault Unit.)

March 1—Transfer or change in assignment (part-time to full-time or vice versa).

March 15th—Deadline for letters of retirement/resignation.



I OPPOSE THE SCHOOL INFORMATION FINDER

⇒ "NO SIF" - You can register your opposition on FACEBOOK. (www.etfo.ca)

Health & Safety

Ergonomics and Educators:

If workplace design, practices, and procedures are not carefully crafted education workers risk developing painful and often disabling injuries. These go by such names as musculoskeletal injuries (MSI), repetitive strain injuries (RSI), repetitive motion injuries (RMI), or work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSD). Many educators work in more than one location within a school and may also work at home, thereby considerably expanding the risk of such conditions.

Common symptoms of these injuries include such things as pain (burning or aching), fatigue, tingling, numbness, loss of grip, clumsiness, stiffness, and hypersensitivity/tenderness to touch.

Workers who suspect they have symptoms related to their work environment should see their physician immediately and report the condition to their supervisor as well as to their representative on their board's JHSC.

Checklist:

- ⇒ I lift with my legs.
- ⇒ I have a good grip on what is being lifted.
- ⇒ I carry loads close to my body.
- ⇒ I make sure the path is clear.
- ⇒ I avoid over-reaching.
- ⇒ I avoid using child-sized furniture to perform my job.

Stewards

Mark your calendars. A Steward's meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of **March 5th**. As always, you will receive a sample Leave of Absence form to assist you in requesting the day. (Our provincial staff officer, Lynn McClean, will be in Sault Ste. Marie for this meeting.) You will be required to confirm attendance. If you are unable to attend, please send an alternate.

PD FUNDS: PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PD FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE! MEMBERS MAY APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE (UP TO \$500.00) TO ATTEND WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES. CONTACT KITTY AT 942-3379 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Personal Leave & P.A. Days

It is important to note that **Personal Leave Type 2** (which includes accompanying a child to tournaments etc.) **MAY BE GRANTED** by the Board on a P.A. Day. This is not a "shall" clause and members should be aware that if this leave is granted on a P.D. Day it will be **WITHOUT PAY** and with a loss of service credits. This is at a significant cost to members (approx. double the cost of a supply teacher). In addition, members requesting such a leave will need to contact the Ontario Teachers' Pension Board to buy back pension credits on such days.

Kindergarten AQ

Location: Pinewood

When: Course dates in March, April and May. (Look for the brochure in your staff room.)

Fee: \$650.00

Application for this course is available on the ETFO website at www.etfo.ca. The deadline is Friday, February 19th.



F.Y.I. Please note that we now have two copies of **LEARNING TOGETHER** (A Teacher's Guide to Combined Grades) in the office. Please email adetfovp@shaw.ca or call 942-3379 to borrow a copy.

Know Your Collective Agreement

Transfers may be carried out at any time during the school year.

Article 21.3 (d) states: A member transferred from one worksite to another or from one work assignment to another in the same worksite, after September 1st, effective within the same school year, will receive one preparation day to facilitate the change in location.

VACANCIES

Have you been thinking about getting involved in your Federation? Now is the time to join a committee!

The following vacancies exist:

STATUS OF WOMEN—(one position)

POLITICAL ACTION—(one position)

SPECIAL EDUCATION—(one position)

Call 942-3379 or email

adetfo@shaw.ca if you are interested in any of the above positions.

ETFO Responds to the Crisis in Haiti

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario has responded with an initial disaster relief donation in the amount of **\$10,000 to the Canadian Red Cross** to support rescue and rebuilding efforts in Haiti. An additional donation of **\$5000.00 has also been given to Global Medic.**

Elementary teachers are known for their humanitarian support of people in need, both here in Canada and abroad.

*****Locals have also been making donations which will be matched by provincial. ADETFO contributed \$200.00 to Medecins Sans Frontieres on your behalf.**



The new Minister of Education is **Leona Dombrowsky** (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs since 2005 and a former trustee and chairperson of the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic School Board.)