



ADETFO INFO

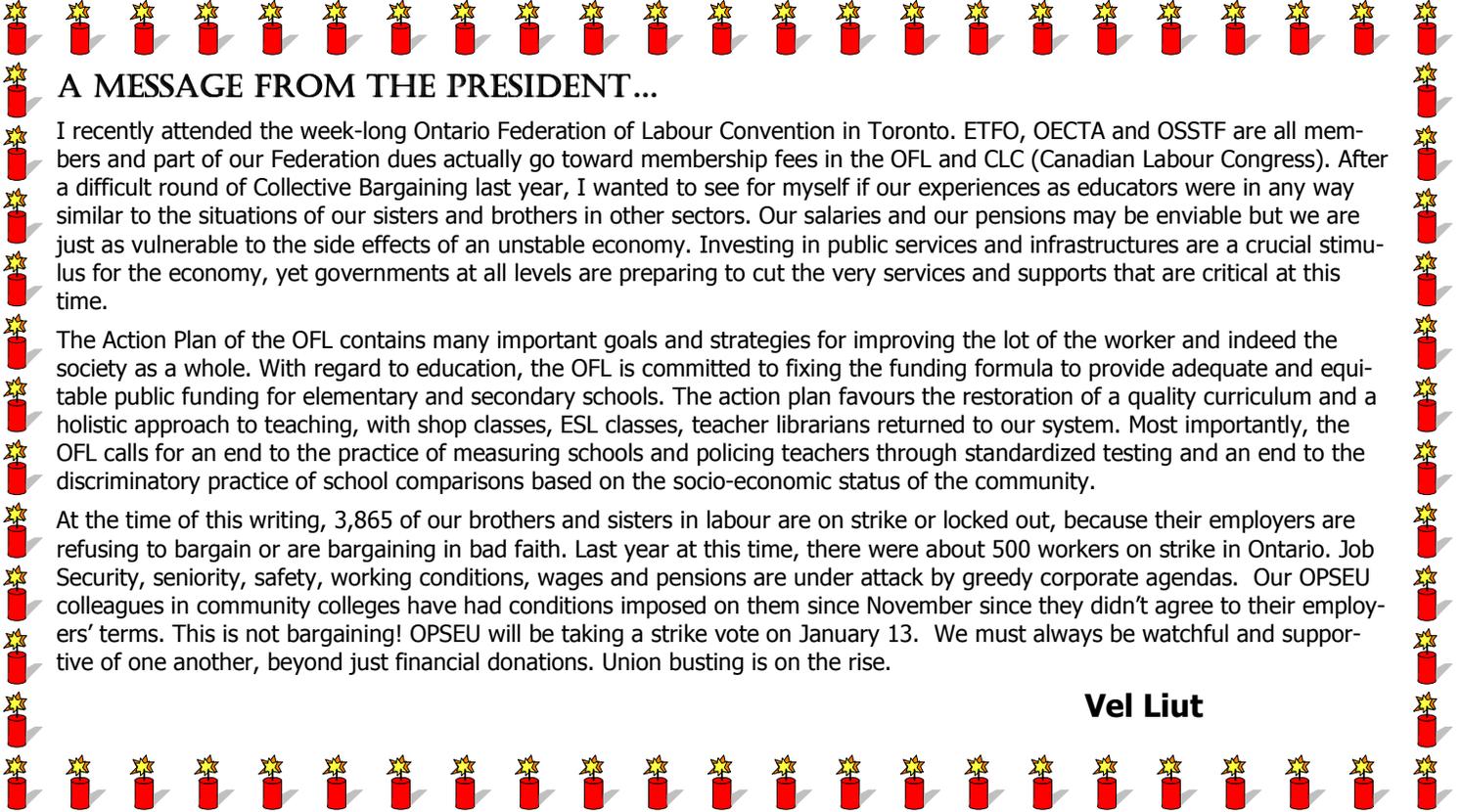
Stewards:
Please Post

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2010

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Wherever you are, start there...don't wait for someone else to make the workplace better. Wherever you are in the organization, start with yourself and small ways to make your team more productive and engaged.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

I recently attended the week-long Ontario Federation of Labour Convention in Toronto. ETFO, OECTA and OSSTF are all members and part of our Federation dues actually go toward membership fees in the OFL and CLC (Canadian Labour Congress). After a difficult round of Collective Bargaining last year, I wanted to see for myself if our experiences as educators were in any way similar to the situations of our sisters and brothers in other sectors. Our salaries and our pensions may be enviable but we are just as vulnerable to the side effects of an unstable economy. Investing in public services and infrastructures are a crucial stimulus for the economy, yet governments at all levels are preparing to cut the very services and supports that are critical at this time.

The Action Plan of the OFL contains many important goals and strategies for improving the lot of the worker and indeed the society as a whole. With regard to education, the OFL is committed to fixing the funding formula to provide adequate and equitable public funding for elementary and secondary schools. The action plan favours the restoration of a quality curriculum and a holistic approach to teaching, with shop classes, ESL classes, teacher librarians returned to our system. Most importantly, the OFL calls for an end to the practice of measuring schools and policing teachers through standardized testing and an end to the discriminatory practice of school comparisons based on the socio-economic status of the community.

At the time of this writing, 3,865 of our brothers and sisters in labour are on strike or locked out, because their employers are refusing to bargain or are bargaining in bad faith. Last year at this time, there were about 500 workers on strike in Ontario. Job Security, seniority, safety, working conditions, wages and pensions are under attack by greedy corporate agendas. Our OPSEU colleagues in community colleges have had conditions imposed on them since November since they didn't agree to their employers' terms. This is not bargaining! OPSEU will be taking a strike vote on January 13. We must always be watchful and supportive of one another, beyond just financial donations. Union busting is on the rise.

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The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario is pleased to provide a donation of **\$500.00** to the Women in Crisis Shelter of Algoma. In times of crisis, centres like this provide tremendous support to so many women and children across the province. The same donation will be made in the near future to all women's shelters in the Algoma District.



THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR. PACKAGES (INCLUDING NOMINATION FORMS) WILL BE MAILED TO STEWARDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ADETFO AWARDS

Don't forget to nominate individuals for the following awards:

- ⇒ SUPPORT STAFF
- ⇒ OUTSTANDING BUS DRIVER
- ⇒ INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR
- ⇒ HUMANITARIAN
- ⇒ VOLUNTEER

Nominations due by 4:00 p.m. March 31st!

REMINDER

**Thinking of Retirement?
R.T.O. workshop
Saturday, January 30th**

Please see your Steward for details.

Benefits Information Update

CAREPATH is an organization that specializes in cancer-related service programs.

Advantages for ETFO members:

- ◆ Access to CAREpath's dedicated oncology nurses
- ◆ Personalized service plans
- ◆ Access to information about test and treatment options
- ◆ Assistance in accessing second opinions, tests, and clinical trials
- ◆ Counseling to help reduce the emotional impact of the diagnosis
- ◆ Ongoing advice and support

This year, OTIP is pleased to introduce a new, no-charge Cancer Information Line for extended family members, colleagues and friends who have been diagnosed with cancer. The information line can be reached by calling 1-800-290-5106 or by emailing info@carepath.ca.

Learning Together

A Teacher's Guide to Combined Grades

ETFO's NEW practical resource is a hands-on, teacher-friendly guidebook, full of planning, teaching, and assessment strategies that were developed and field-tested by ETFO's combined grade classroom teachers. This template-filled resource includes planning samples, checklists, and reflection guides, as well as writeable templates on a CD, so teachers can easily customize material for their specific classroom use.

This resource is available from **shopETFO**
 Please contact Janet Millar Grant at jmillargrant@etfo.org for more details.

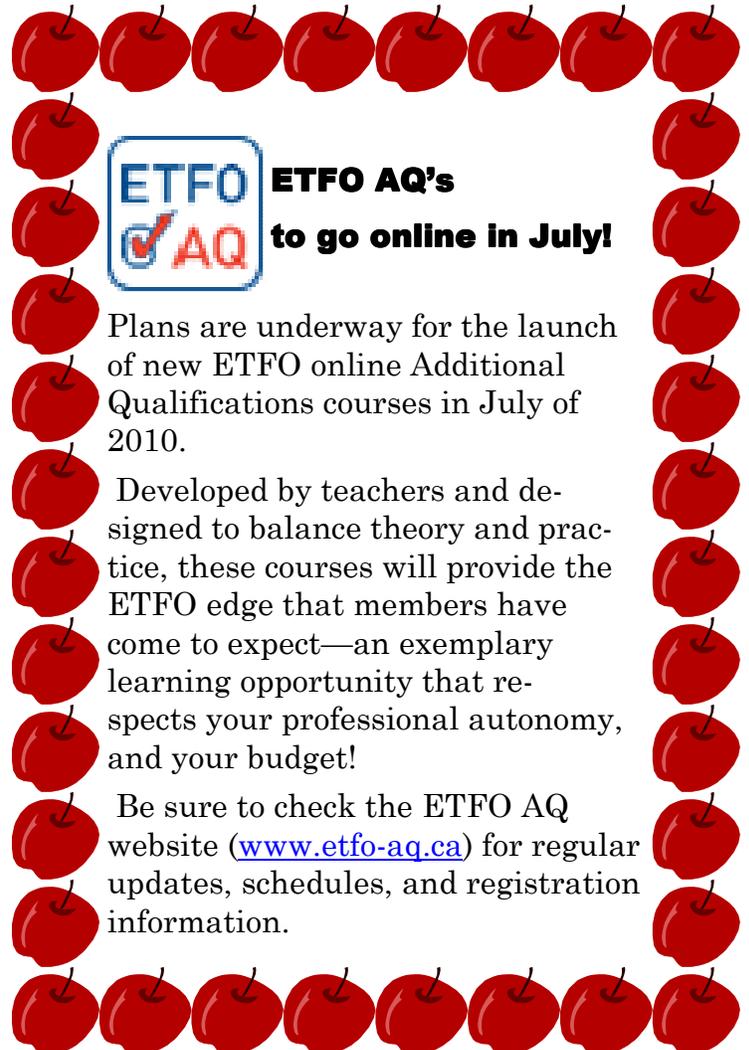
To order, contact shopETFO at 1-888-838-3836 or online at etfo.ca.

ETFO Symptoms Related to Air Quality Difficulties

Common symptoms related to poor indoor air quality include things such as nasal inflammation, asthma, general malaise, nausea, nosebleed, eye irritation, vocal dysfunction, headache, and/or sore throat. If education workers experience these symptoms for an extended period of time or in particular areas of their work site, they should seek medical attention and report the problem immediately to their supervisor. Another potential indication of poor indoor air quality is that the symptoms disappear when one is not at work (e.g., weekends, holidays, and evenings).

Indoor Air Quality Checklist

- ◆ I properly operate all ventilation systems that I control.
- ◆ I open windows and doors to encourage ventilation.
- ◆ When there are choices about procedures and methods, I use the one least likely to have an impact on air quality.
- ◆ I do not allow leaks or water stains to go unreported or uncorrected.



ETFO AQ's to go online in July!

Plans are underway for the launch of new ETFO online Additional Qualifications courses in July of 2010.

Developed by teachers and designed to balance theory and practice, these courses will provide the ETFO edge that members have come to expect—an exemplary learning opportunity that respects your professional autonomy, and your budget!

Be sure to check the ETFO AQ website (www.etfo-aq.ca) for regular updates, schedules, and registration information.