



ADETFO INFO

June 2015

ADETFO AGM Highlights 2015

- This year's ADETFO AGM held on **Saturday, May 9, 2015** at the Grand Gardens in Sault Ste. Marie.
- AGM began with a review and celebration of all that "OUR Union" has done this year which included Goodwill donations locally and internationally. The Provincial CB campaign was revealed at this meeting and an important video message from our President, Sam Hammond was shared.
- We celebrated the active involvement of all of our Local and Provincial committee members and the Local's Annual Report was presented. Committee members, Stewards, and Executive members were all recognized for their hard work and commitment to Algoma ETFO. The Elections Committee also reported official results of the local Unit elections at this meeting.
- Constitutional amendments (12 in all) were discussed and debated and voted on by delegates ~ Democracy in Action! The evening wrapped up with a wonderful dinner, social and door prizes. Many thanks to both the organizers, volunteers and delegates of the 2015 ADETFO AGM!

Getting Ready to Retire In the Next 5 Years?

If you answered yes, you will want to visit the ETFO website and watch the newly released webinar "Getting Ready to Retire" hosted by ETFO Provincial Staff Officers. This excellent 30 minute webinar walks you through step-by-step on how to prepare yourself for retirement. It includes; a getting ready to retire checklist, creating an i-access account, buying back pension credits, pension calculations and scenarios. Definitely worth watching. You can also visit the ADETFO website www.adetfo.ca to access this information by clicking on the green retirement tab.

Directions Step 1: go to www.adetfo.ca Step 2: click on Multimedia tab (left side) Step 3: Click on Webcasts

An ADETFO Steward is:

A Liaison/An Advocate/A Positive Union Presence/A Communications Link/A Convenor/A Social Activist/A Collective Agreement Monitor/A Relationship Builder.

Thank you for all your hard work this year!

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OTIP RAE0

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3 chances to win up to \$3,000!

No purchase necessary. Open to active and retired education employees residing in the Province of Ontario, 18 years of age or older. A maximum of 1 renewal date or a retirement date required to qualify. Contestants enter once, maximum 4 ballots. Odds of winning depend on total entries received. Prizes are \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 awarded throughout contest period. Contest closes June 30, 2015. Skill testing question must be answered correctly. Contestants agree to be contacted by an OTIP broker.



Do you know a student who could use an extra \$1,500 for tuition?

If you're insured with OTIP and you or one of your relatives (e.g. child, step-child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, spouse, etc.) will be a full-time or part-time post-secondary student in the upcoming academic year, enter online for the chance to win a bursary from OTIP.

Twelve bursaries of \$1,500 each are awarded annually. The deadline to enter is June 15 each year.

Visit www.otip.com/bursary for more information.

WONDERFUL WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ADETFO RETIREE.....

(Many thanks for sharing our history, your personal story and an important message for all!)

I wanted to say a few words about the importance of supporting our federation. At a young age I knew of its importance because of the woman who is my guest tonight, my mom. In many ways she was my mentor, long before it ever became a mandatory ministry program. As a single woman who raised 4 children on her own, she modelled for me the importance of a good education and financial independence. She was an active member within her federation of teachers. I saw first-hand how hard she worked as a teacher (while completing her degree at the same time) so that she could move up the salary grid and provide for our family. As collective bargaining rep for the former North Shore Federation of Women Teachers I witnessed the hours she put in to create the first ever grid with our predecessor board, The North Shore Board of Education. In fact, I typed up that grid when I was in high school. So when my federation inducted me as a new teacher, I never hesitated to get involved and show my support. As a new teacher I attended as many meetings and workshops as I could to learn about the organization, both provincially and locally. I even had the privilege to take part in the Annual General Assembly in Toronto where we celebrated the Honourary Membership of Ruth Christilaw, my grade one teacher. It is because of these strong and capable women I chose to volunteer locally as Goodwill Convenor and later on as Treasurer.

In the 1990s, we as teachers were faced with the cutbacks of the Mike Harris government and FWTAO was amalgamated with OPSTF to form what is now ETFO. The political landscape was changing and it was more important than ever that I throw my support behind my new union. Whenever there was strike action I never hesitated to get involved. I am so grateful for the collective hard work that our union does on our behalf. It is because of all this hard work I am able to retire with a secure future. I look forward to the freedom of possibilities that are ahead of me. As I leave this union and become a future member of RTO I will not ignore your issues. You know I'll be listening to the news and thinking of you should this current political struggle with the government stretch on into September. Know that you can count on me to provide support.

Tonight I accept the gifts our local has given me. Not just my retirement gift perse but the best gifts my union could have ever given me: NOT having to administer the grade three EQAO test; and, NOT having to write comments during my last report card season.

So in conclusion, I have an encouraging message for the members I leave behind: know your collective agreement, make your collective voice be heard and above all keep your union alive. Studies show that nations with union organizations make better societies.

LIZ ROUSSELLE, NORTH SHORE AGLOMA