



ADETFO INFO

March 2015

Attention all ELKP and SK/1 Educators - Teachers and DECE's:

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH **ALL DECE'S** IN YOUR SCHOOL/WORKPLACE

THE ADETFO EARLY YEARS COMMITTEE wants to remind you of our workshop featuring Tracy Pickard (OCT) and Cheryl Emrich (DECE) from Waterloo ETFO. It promises to be a great day so don't forget to register by March 27th! If you are an Early Years' Educator, an invitation and registration form has been sent via email to your **non** Board email address. Please check your email for your personal invitation and registration form to sign up for this event. A hardcopy will also be sent, please watch for it on your staff room table.

ETFO Lobbying Successes



While it is understandable that members are frustrated with the extent to which key issues are addressed by government, it's important to reflect on the significant success that ETFO has had in terms of its lobbying efforts in the recent past.

These successes include:

- Adoption of smaller primary class sizes
- Cancellation of teacher recertification
- Cancellation of the standardized teacher test
- Introduction of the teacher induction and mentoring program
- Extension of teacher induction program to long term occasional teachers
- Changes to EQAO testing-shorter time and later in the year
- Improvements to the performance appraisal process
- Reforms to the Ontario College of Teachers –giving greater representation to classroom teachers
- Protection of role of the teacher in full-day Kindergarten
- Support for the play-based learning approach in Kindergarten
- Changes to private members' bills – anti-bullying legislation, asthma-free schools
- Creation of Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 155 re: diagnostic assessments
- Establishment of the MOU task forces/studies on occupational health and safety, workload and professionalism, diagnostic assessment
- Amendments to Bill 122, *the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*
- Delay of Bill 103, legislation introducing changes to the *Ontario College of Teachers Act*
- Changes to the draft PPM 156 to address teacher workload issues related to the IEPs
- Changes to the draft Kindergarten reporting template to reflect the respective roles of the DECE and the teacher.



OCT – Mandate Creep.... Since it was established in 1996, the Ontario College of Teachers has expanded into areas that are beyond its legislated mandate.

- There should be a clear separation of roles where the College regulates the teaching profession in the public interest and advocacy for the profession is left to the organizations that represent teachers.
- It is important to remember that OCT does not advocate for teachers or the profession. OCT is responsible for accrediting pre-service programs at Ontario's faculties, licensing teachers and investigating complaints. OCT is responsible for disciplining members and revoking licences of teachers for reasons of incompetence or misconduct.
- College revenue comes solely from fees charged for registering with the College.
- The "mandate creep" has also led to a misguided use of College human and financial resources and to an increase in staff and budget for which College registrants have been forced to pay.
- There is growing concern on the part of teachers that the College is engaged in empire building and expanding its activities at their expense. There is no accountability to those who pay the fees for how the College funds are spent or whether a fee increase is justified.
- ETFO is looking to the provincial government to intervene to ensure the College focuses solely on its core mandate of regulating the teaching profession in the public interest.
- ETFO and the Ontario Teachers' Federation have protested OCT's mandate creep. There was an extensive protest on the part of registrants to the recent fee increase similar to the protest of the teacher re-certification program that was attempted. The College magazine "Professionally Speaking" was returned to OCT in a protest by teachers last year following the fee increase. The "mandate creep" on the part of the College creates confusion about its role on the part of both teachers and the public.
- ETFO and other affiliates passed motions last year to stop the practice of endorsing candidates for College Elections. (Legislative requirements prevent affiliates from discussing items of interest or concern with OCT council members who represent them and concerns have gone unaddressed.)

Young Women's Leadership Award

Female Grade 8 Students

Sponsored by the ADETFO Status of Women Committee

Up to **\$100 cash** to a deserving female student from each school in ADSB. Students are to submit a 1-page letter, poster, PowerPoint or any other form of media (please include a paper copy) which highlights how the students are making a difference as a young woman.

They should consider:

- Reading the new resources *Every Day is a Malala Day* and *Because I am a Girl* donated by the Status of Women Committee.
- Barriers they have overcome.
- Showing how they have demonstrated leadership or responsibility.
- Their understanding of women in global issues.
- Women in the media.
- Nominating a fellow student for the above reasons.

Submissions should be sent to ADETFO, 123 March St. Suite 106, or Grand View P.S. or Isabel Fletcher P.S. by **May 1, 2015**.

For further information, please refer to the original flyer sent to all schools in February. (Please see your ADETFO bulletin board for original.)





ADETFO Committees' Corner

This year the Spec. Ed. Committee has been critically examining the roles and responsibilities of Special Education and Resource teachers. The committee is currently working on developing a survey questionnaire to gather information and feedback from SERTs in regards to understanding their role in schools, their work load and needs expressed by colleagues.

The committee chair has been working with ADETFO to have this survey sent to SERT's before the end of the 2014-2015 teaching year. As data is crucial and the driving force for change, it is our hope that those who fulfill the role of SERT will take the time to complete this item so as to better service the needs of our students and schools throughout ADSB.

The Political Action Committee was off to a good start in late October when the committee sent questionnaires to Trustees and Trustee candidates. Responses and voting reminders were sent to all ADETFO members and posted on the website. An ad was also placed on Sootoday to remind readers to vote in the municipal election!

Members of the committee volunteered to attend Labour Council meetings with Executive staff in January. A memo to update members on other labour issues in the media will be sent shortly. We will keep you updated! Committee member, Shelly Predum, will attend the CLC Election Training in Sudbury on behalf of ADETFO in March.

The Social Justice and Equity Committee participated in The Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 21st, to support for St. Vincent Place. Thank you to the schools and the Sault Unit for sponsoring this fundraising effort. The committee continues to gather and develop resources to assist teachers present a diverse and inclusive curriculum.

The Awards Committee is anxious to review nominations submitted for ADETFO awards. Nominations are due by March 31st. Presentations are made at the annual retirement dinner which is scheduled for May/June. An ETFO award is a perfect way to acknowledge the work and dedication of those around us.

The Elections Committee is currently preparing for Executive Unit Elections. The deadline for nominations is March 25th and voting will take place the week of April 12th. Representatives will be elected for a 2 year term from all geographic areas.

Your Health, Wellness and Safety Committee hosted a workshop for ADETFO H,W, & Safety reps. on February 19, 2015. Provincial Staff Officer, Valence Young provided attendees with a PowerPoint presentation, a review of violent incident reporting forms, safe schools reporting forms and gave an overview of school inspections "look fors" A question and answer segment wrapped up the evening. Thank you to all who assisted in organizing this event.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE AND SAULT STE. MARIE POLICE SERVICE OPERATION ALL DRESSED UP 2015



The OPP and SSMPS are looking for donations of gently used and /or new formal dresses purchased between 2010 and 2015 to assist with this initiative. Anyone wishing to donate some accessories towards making a young girl's special day memorable will also be accepted. Help eliminate some of the anxiety girls experience when preparing for these ceremonies and ease the financial strain on families that accompany graduation and prom events.

Local drop off points for donated items include the SSM Police Services Building at 580 Second Line East or the OPP Detachment at 742 Great Northern Road. All donations should be dropped off ASAP.

ADETFO STATUS OF WOMEN EVENT

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR A GREAT DINNER AND SPEAKING EVENT "OVARIAN CANCER"

"Knowledge is Power" Presentation
By: Jane Vienneau and Gayle Manley
APRIL 29th Grand Gardens

\$10 covers full buffet dinner, donation and door prizes

Tickets will be available from your ADETFO Status of Women Committee members!

A flyer will be sent to your school with details!



ADETFO Awards

Nominations are being accepted for:

- ~Support Staff
- ~Outstanding Bus Driver
- ~Innovative Educator
- ~Humanitarian
- ~Volunteer



Nominations Due: March 31st.

See your Steward, visit the ADETFO website for criteria and applications or contact Kitty Zorzi, Office Manager for a copy 705-942-3379 or by email: kzorzi@shaw.ca



Donations made by ADETFO 2014-2015

- BC Teachers' Federation
- RCL Branch 25-Legion Wreath
- Oldtimer's Hockey Benefit
- Operation Christmas Child
- Chess Educator's Group
- Lung Association
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Ontario Nurses' Association

Workplace Protection + Professional Development + Social Activism = ETFO