



ADETFO INFO

President's Message:

A New Year, a Fresh Start...

Your team has been working hard on your behalf all summer! From a new provincial LTD plan to VLAP days, there is much work to be done! Stewards have been given detailed information on VLAP days including an FAQ. Please see your Steward for details. Regarding the MOU, the government has given a new deadline for sigh of which is now Sept. 30. We are hopeful that this will be completed by the deadline.

This summer, seven Algoma members attended the Annual General Meeting in Toronto (Aug. 12-15). This is where the goals and priorities of the Federation are set for the year by the grassroots of the organization. Once again, it was an amazing experience! We are very proud to have such active membership in Algoma. Susan Ritchie and Nicole Mitchell worked hard all week long at the resolutions table and did a fabulous job! Lee-Ann Matteau presented Barb Harrison with the Humanitarian award on behalf of the Provincial Awards Committee. The rest of the team included our Treasurer—Beth Reed, Ann Ciaschini, Lee Mason, Sean Seccareccia, Wendy Todesco and Kelly Holley. They spoke to motions and voted on important policies throughout the week. I am also very excited to be serving in my new role as Provincial Executive Member. This benefits Algoma and the North in many ways as communicated to Stewards in an email—"What does this mean for Algoma?"

The Labour Day celebration was also well attended and we are proud members of the Sault Ste. Marie and District Labour Council. This was a free event for the community and this year's theme was "TOGETHER FAIRNESS WORKS!". It is important to remember how different your life would be today if it wasn't for the labour movement!

Locally, many wonderful workshops, training sessions, and events are being planned for Algoma members in the coming year. I encourage each of you to find your passion and get involved in YOUR union. A key message at AGM this year was that we can measure our success by the number of members who refer to the Union as "My Union" vs. "The Union". The Union is YOU! Be informed and get involved in 2013. It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us. The opportunities for PD and leadership are endless.

We've also updated the website. Be sure to visit it frequently throughout the year and save it as a "Favourite" ~ www.adetfo.on.ca and don't forget to follow me on **Twitter**.

I continue to be honoured to represent you as President of ADETFO. Your voice matters – contact the office if you have questions, concerns or simply want help in celebrating successes!



I would like to welcome back Executive members, new and returning Stewards, committee members and chairs and all ADETFO members. Here's to a fabulous year of learning together!

Kelly

September 2013

New Stewards Training: If you are a new Steward in your school/worksite, ADETFO will be hosting a new Stewards' training session on **Friday, October 18, 2013** at the Local Office ~12:00 noon ~ 3:30 p.m. Lunch provided.

All ADETFO Stewards & H&S Reps Meeting: Thursday, October 24th ~ 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. (SSMarie). Details to follow.

A sample leave of absence form and a confirmation of attendance form will be sent to you shortly.

ADETFO

Joint Health & Safety Reps 2013/2014

Once again are:



Jennifer Mathison,

St. Joseph Island/ Echo Bay P.S.

Brian Christianson,

Superior Heights Intermediate School

Karen Russon-Offidani,

Grand View P.S. ~ Alternate

RETIREMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

WITH

Jennifer Mitchell, ETFO Executive Assistant

**Wed. October 30, 2013 ~ Holiday Inn Express
Sault Ste. Marie ~ 4:15 p.m.**

TOPICS:

- ⇒ Calculating your pension
- ⇒ Writing your letter and how/when
- ⇒ Shopping for benefits
- ⇒ Questions and Answers
- ⇒ Survivor pension waiver
- ⇒ Retirement gratuities

If you would like to attend this workshop, call the ADETFO office (705-942-3379 or toll-free 1-877-258-9080). **Deadline to reserve your space is Wednesday, October 23rd**

Non-ETFO members welcome! Please note there will be a \$15 fee for material and food for non ETFO members.

2013 ETFO Annual Meeting Highlights:

This year's ETFO Annual Meeting took place in Toronto from August 12th – 15th at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel. It featured speeches by Sam Hammond (ETFO President), Jacqui Lavalley (Elder of the Ojibwe Nation), Ilana Landsberg-Lewis (Executive Director Stephen Lewis Foundation Social Justice Speaker), Terry Hamilton (Ontario Teachers' Federation President), Dianne Woloschuck (Canadian Teachers' Federation President), and Barbara Byers (Canadian Labour Congress Executive Vice-President).

HIGHLIGHTS: ETFO President, Sam Hammond was re-elected for another two year term. In his speech, he pointed out the great deal of solidarity teachers across Ontario have shown throughout turbulent times, and how they continue to show it. President Hammond continued to provide insight into the current situation teachers in Ontario find themselves in, reiterated how not only teachers, but all unions still face many challenges ahead, and reminded us how our Charter challenge begins in October. He stressed that going forward together, it will be essential for us to continue to stand and lead the way.

Jacqui Lavalley, Elder of the Ojibwe Nation, gave a powerful speech about First Nations Peoples and challenges they face, especially in the area of Education.

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, the Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Social Justice Speaker, moved many delegates with a Social Justice Presentation and the need for care around the world.

Terry Hamilton, Ontario Teachers' Federation President, and Dianne Woloschuck, Canadian Teachers' Federation President updated the delegates on current OTF and CTF initiatives.

Barbara Byers, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress spoke to the delegates about current labour issues in Ontario and in Canada, and how they relate to the education sector.

Elections were also held within the Provincial Executive this year. The biggest news to the ADETFO local is that Kelly Holley, ADETFO President, has been elected to the Provincial Executive. This is a very positive outcome for Algoma and the North as we will have a voice in the province to deal with our unique issues, be able to have first-hand information going forward, and reduce costs for our local.

Lee-Ann Matteau also represented our local well by speaking in front of the delegates for an award presentation.

Finally, after much debate, this year's budget was approved by delegate vote. Delegates across the province also brought forward many important resolutions throughout the week.

Sean Seccareccia, Hornpayne Unit Rep.

If you are interested in attending **Labour Council Meetings** as an **ADETFO Representative**, the meetings are held on the **last Wednesday** of each month at **7:30 p.m.**

Please contact the office to submit your name **705-942-3379**.

If you are contacted by the police or the Children's Aid Society (CAS) regarding an allegation made against you:

- **DO NOT** participate in or consent to an interview.
- Make no statement to anyone regarding the allegation or charges.
- Say, "I am willing to co-operate but I am unable to comment until I contact my Federation and legal counsel",
- Get the name, title and contact information for the police officer or CAS worker who has contacted you.
- Call Professional Relations Services (PRS) at **1-888-838-3836** or **1-416-962-3836** and **state that your call is urgent!**



Algoma Teacher Kelly Holley Elected to Executive of Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario

For Immediate Release – August 14, 2013

TORONTO, ON – Kelly Holley, an Algoma teacher and president of the ETFO Algoma Teacher Local, was elected to the Executive of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) today.

Speaking to more than 800 ETFO members at the Federation's Annual Meeting in Toronto, Holley said, "While the past year has been one of the most challenging in our history, ETFO has proven to be the leader in the province in terms of standing up for democratic rights."

"My goal on the Executive will be to engage members, develop and support new leaders, promote pride in the profession and our union, and develop a strategic political action plan. By working with our diverse membership, and reaching out to other labour unions, we can ensure we have a strong union movement that preserves good jobs and democratic rights in the province."

A teacher with the Algoma District School Board since 1998, Holley obtained her Master of Education at Brock University. She has undertaken volunteer and fundraising initiatives with many local community groups including the United Way, Lung Association, Women in Crisis Shelter, and Algoma Family Services.

Elected president of the Algoma Teacher Local in 2010, Holley has served the local in a number of capacities including vice-president from 2006-2010, chief negotiator, grievance officer, Status of Women Committee chair, and steward. At the provincial level, Kelly is a member of the Selection Committee for ETFO's standing committees, and has served on the Elections Task Force.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario represents 76,000 elementary public school teachers and education professionals across the province and is the largest teacher federation in Canada.

IMPORTANT ~ ALL ADETFO MEMBERS

- **Up to five days may be requested (Any day may be requested i.e. attached to holidays etc.)**
- **Salary deduction will be equalized if requests are made prior to Sept. 15th. ***Unpaid days may be requested after September 15th.**
- **The VLAP days are unpaid days—no cost of supply is deducted!**
- **Every effort should be made to avoid a request for change or cancellation. If an exceptional circumstances does arise, members are advised to inform ADETFO of the request when it is made.**
- **Requests need to be approved before arrangements are made (travel etc.). (Approval on a first come first serve basis and depends upon operations/coverage.**
- **Members are responsible for contacting the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) in order to buy back pension credits.**
- **Average cost per day \$50 to \$80.**
- **There is a nominal interest rate applied (1.55% currently).**
- **OTPP contact number 1-800-668-0105.**