

OSSTF - DISTRICT 15 NEWSLETTER

# ORGANIZED THOUGHTS

## A Message from the District President Iggy van Kooten



As we move into spring, I would like to thank the eight members who attended our Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly from March 13 to March 16, giving 3 days of their March break to represent the District to do important Union business.

Of significance, at AMPA, the assembly voted to increase annual union dues by 0.1% (approximately \$120 per year for our highest-paid members). While I recognize this may be unpopular, the Finance Committee—comprising volunteers from various districts—presented compelling arguments to justify this increase.

Additionally, April 29 marks an important day for education unions to show solidarity by wearing "Red for Ed." As we approach a challenging round of bargaining when our contracts expire at the end of August 2026, please wear red on April 29 to demonstrate our collective strength.

Finally, I encourage you to apply to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. Each worksite may send representatives based on proportional representation. This is a critical meeting, as we will elect the new executive team to serve from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028.

### Upcoming Dates

April 14 **AGM representative deadline**  
*\*See newsletter*

April 16 **Merit Awards Nominations**  
*\*See newsletter*

April 28 **Workers' Mourning Day**

April 29 **RED FOR ED**  
**Wear red!**

April 30 **OTIP Retirement Workshop**  
*\*Bracebridge*

April 30 **Declaration of Redundancy**  
L19.05

May 1 **Surplus to School Declaration**  
L19.06

May 15 **PD FUND Deadline**

May 12 **BUC meeting**  
(Bargaining Unit Council)  
*\*Virtual*

May 14 **AGM**  
(Annual General Meeting)  
*\*See newsletter*

June 12 **BUC meeting**  
(Bargaining Unit Council)  
*\*Minden*

**DO YOU KNOW?**  
The importance of reading your collective agreement?

#### 19.05 Declaration of Redundancy

L19.05.1 Redundancy occurs when the full-time equivalent number of teachers in the secondary panel exceeds the full-time equivalent number of teaching positions for the next school year.

L19.05.3 When redundancy exists, the Employer shall notify, in writing by no later than April 30 the member(s) whose employment may be terminated because of redundancy.



#### L19.06 Surplus to School Declaration

L19.06.3 The Superintendent of Human Resources Services or designate shall, in consultation with the Principals, identify and notify in writing by May 1 each Bargaining Unit member in each school who is expected to be surplus to the staffing requirements of each school for September of the following year.

L19.06.4 Teachers identified in L19.06.3 shall be provided with the following information: a) a list identifying all worksites where staff complement vacancies or available leaves may exist; b) a Location Preference Form to complete and return to the Superintendent of Human Resources Services or designate by no later than five (5) working days following notification under L19.06.3.

**PD Fund**

Apply by May 15, 2026

Instagram:@OSSTFd15 Facebook:@OSSTFd15

### District Merit Awards

CLICK HERE

An annual tradition of recognizing outstanding member achievements in a variety of areas. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague for one or more of the awards. Click above for more information. Deadline Friday, April 17, 2026.

### March Winner - congrats!

Phoebe Fraund Linton  
LCVI/IEW



## District 15 T/OT - AGM (Annual General Meeting)

### Interested in being a representative?

Teachers

please contact your Branch President

Occasional Teachers

Please contact the Federation Officer:

[info@osstfd15.net](mailto:info@osstfd15.net)

**DEADLINE: APRIL 14, 2026**

Thursday, May 14, 2026

4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Meeting begins 5:00 pm; Dinner 6:00 pm



1500 Port Stanton Parkway Severn Bridge, ON  
(705) 689-2338

## Wellness Supports

Your OSSTF membership provides access to two valuable mental health supports designed to help you manage stress, build resilience, and navigate life's challenges.

**Starling Minds** - A self-guided, online program offering tools and exercises based on cognitive behavioural therapy to help with managing everyday stress, anxiety, and burnout, and is available anytime to all members.

**TELUS Health Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)** - Provides access to professional counsellors and support for a wide range of personal, family, and work-life concerns. Members and their families can access shortterm counselling, crisis support, and guidance whenever needed.

More information about these services, including how to access them, can be found [here](#).

## Retirement

### Working as an OT after Retirement?

It's your responsibility to maintain awareness of the pension rules that apply to your situation.

Head to [www.otpp.com](http://www.otpp.com) to review re-employment information including:

- The re-employment limit.
  - Take the time to understand how many days you can work before your pension is affected.

### Thinking about Retiring?

Please reach out to the District Office for information and support.



Check out the OTIP website for information and workshop listings.

Register at: [otip.com/events](http://otip.com/events)

## Reminders

Ontario College of Teachers membership **DUE APRIL 15, 2026**

CLICK HERE

Federation Family Education Fund **DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2026**

CLICK HERE

SAVE THE DATE

PROVINCE-WIDE DAY OF ACTION

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

TOGETHER for publicly funded education



Act Now For Education! **Wear Red For Ed(ucation)**  
On April 29th  
[Underfunded.ca](http://Underfunded.ca)

