



OCTU D21 NEWS

OCTU District 21 Newsletter

February 2018

A letter from our President:

Welcome to February, while it is the shortest month of the year, it is turning out to be one of the busier months for OCTU. From planning and hosting two socials, to opening up registration for PD Day and more, plenty of behind the scenes work has been happening on behalf of the membership.

We set new records with number of participants registering for PD Day with 102 registered within 10 minutes and nearly 150 registered on the first day of registration! AMAZING! We are thrilled at the interest from the membership and look forward to hosting our best day yet. There is still time to register, just go to HWDSB's PD Place and type 197579 in the search. The team has been working hard to ensure a great day of learning and fun has been planned for everyone.

Later this month Lisa Hiscox (Political Action Officer) and myself will attend day 2 of our "Election Readiness" training with Provincial OSSTF. This workshop will guide local leaders on ways we can utilize our resources and membership to become advocates and ensure we are supporting political parties that will listen to the needs of Education Workers. This is the second part of a three part training opportunity for Lisa and I on behalf of the members.

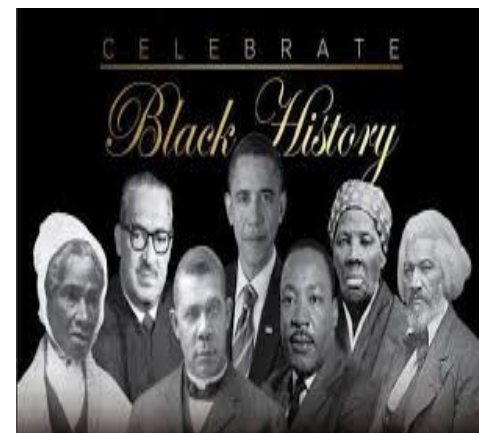
We look forward to hosting our Provincial Vice President, Cindy Dubue this coming Thursday, February 8th at 2 worksite visits (Sir John A MacDonald at 11:25 a.m., and Education Centre at 4:00 p.m.) to speak directly with the grassroots members on their needs and desires for future rounds of central bargaining (big ticket items - typically monetary items). Please see the attached flyer for further information on these meetings.

We continue to advocate on behalf of our membership at our regularly scheduled "Relations Meetings" with Human Resources. We speak about on-going concerns and issues that are brought to our attention from the members and address them with HR. We discuss and set agenda items for these meetings at our monthly Council meetings, by listening to your branch reps bringing concerns and questions forward. Please continue to contact your branch rep to bring forward questions and/or concerns so we may continue to ensure these items are addressed in the proper forum.

Samantha

Key Dates

- February is Black History Month
- Feb 2 Groundhog Day
- Feb 6 Sign up for Axe Throwing!
- Feb 8 Visit with Cindy Dubue from Provincial
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 19 Family Day
- Feb 27 Axe Throwing Social
- March 2—OCTU PD Day



Happy Valentine's Day

Join us for an evening of Axe Throwing!

Date: Tues February 27th

Time: 6pm

Place: BATL Hamilton

80 James St N, 2nd Floor

Cost: \$20/member & \$30/non-member



Members are invited to join us for a fun night of Axe throwing!
Members are able to bring guests and food will be provided at the venue.

Registration will open Tuesday Feb 6 at 2pm

Email Brandie district21@osstf21.ca

If you are planning on attending, please let us know how many guests you are bringing.

Consider yourself registered once you email as this event can hold up to 150 participants.

An email will only be sent should your name need to be added to a waitlist.

You are encouraged to send your payment to the District 21 Office via board mail, your branch rep or in person by Feb 23

The location is near Jackson Square and may require paid parking which will not be covered by OCTU. Members are encouraged to carpool and can leave their vehicles at the OSSTF office if preferred, to meet up with others attending.

****Please note this venue is licensed. Alcoholic drinks are at your own cost****

Member Life Events

Have you or an immediate family member recently celebrated a milestone? A marriage? the birth of a child? Or have you suffered a loss or illness?

Please let a branch rep know if you or any OCTU member you know of is experiencing a major life event. We are here to support our members and would like to send acknowledgments in support of our members during their happiest or hardest times.

OCTU PD Day – March 2, 2018

OCTU PD Day is fast approaching—Registration is now open through HWDSB PD Place. Please sign up through PD Place to choose your workshops and attend this annual event sponsored by HWDSB and OCTU District 21.

This event is **OPEN TO ALL OCTU MEMBERS**—including Casuals! All OCTU members are encouraged to attend. Casual members will be paid 3.5 hours if attending.

This year the location has changed and will be at the Marquis Gardens in Ancaster, which is directly accessible on a bus route.

We are greatly looking forward to bringing this event to our members! We have workshops, lunch, prizes and a great information session with our guest speakers. We hope to see many of you there!

A great **BIG THANK YOU** to Jackie McDonald, Samantha Wilson and HWDSB HR Dept. for organizing this event for our members!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE?

We've updated our website! Resources are available for all OCTU members including our current collective agreement, recent newsletters, Health Insurance updates, A branch rep list—including fun facts about your branch rep! Please check out the OSSTF District 21 website and the OCTU Section for important information to all members. www.osstf21.ca

Quick Fact:

Workers in unions are an important part of the local community and economy because that's where they spend their paycheques. Their incomes support local businesses (who create local jobs) and bolster the local tax base, which supports public works and community services that add to everyone's quality of life.

When they retire, the incomes earned from years of contributions into pension plans also provide money to spend in the community. More importantly, they provide income security, which means fewer seniors having to rely on their families or social programs to get by. Same goes for the health, drug and survivor benefits that many retirees enjoy because they had a union when they worked.

Source: CLC Website

Black History Month—Blacks and Labour Unions

For the first time, African Canadians became involved in labour unions, fighting for better wages and working conditions.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was an all-Black union that is one of the great success stories in Canadian Black history. In 1942, under the brilliant tutelage of African American labour leader A. Philip Randolph, it established divisions in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg (and later Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver), and on May 18, 1945 it signed its first collective agreement with CP Rail. With this agreement, porters' wages and time off were increased and their total hours on the job were reduced. This marked the first time that a trade union organized by and for Black men signed an agreement with a Canadian company.

Source: Workers Arts and Heritage Centre

OSSTF District 21 Presents Worksite Visits with Provincial OSSTF President Cindy Dubue

Provincial Executive wants to hear directly from you, the member, about preparing for the next round of central bargaining negotiations. They are hosting open discussion worksite visits to hear from you, the members:

- *What are your top issues you would like to see the Federation address in the next round of bargaining?*
- *What are the "must haves" for the next round of bargaining? What would you be willing to do to back up those demands?*
- *What would allow you to become more engaged and involved as we prepare for the next round of bargaining?*
- *Do you usually participate in bargaining priority surveys? Why/why not?*
- *Do you usually participate in membership meetings regarding negotiations? Why/why not?*
- *How do you typically access/receive information from OSSTF? Do you have other suggestions?*
- *What obstacles if any, do you face in becoming involved?*
- *What would cause you to become more engaged and involved as we prepare for the provincial election?*

Please join us at any of the three (3) upcoming visits:

Thursday, February 8, 2018

1) 11:25 a.m – 12:20 p.m. @ Sir John A MacDonald Secondary School

This visit is for ALL OSSTF members who work at this and surrounding HWDSB facilities

2) 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. @ HWDSB Education Centre

This visit is for ALL OSSTF members who work at this and surrounding HWDSB facilities

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

3) 4:15 p.m. @ OSSTF District 21 Office

This visit is for PECW bargaining unit members and ANY other OSSTF members who could not attend one of the previous meetings

Benefits for OCTU Members

As an OSSTF member there are many added benefits available to you and your families to help support a healthy and happy life.

Educator's Financial—owned by OSSTF and offers Educational workers and their families a variety of financial solutions from competitive mortgage rates to various borrowing and investing products. These are available only to Educational workers and can help you on your way to financial success and freedom. Educator's Financial is also a great partner in preparing members for retirement. They have friendly staff who are willing to meet with our members anywhere and they make home visits!

<https://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/>

OTIP—You may know OTIP from our new health and dental plan but they also offer competitive rates for auto, home, travel and life insurance. Available only to Educational workers and their families, they are an insurance broker who works on our behalf to ensure the best rates to help you save money in your insurance needs.

<https://www.otip.com/>

CAREpath—A program offered through OTIP. This program offers assistance to members who are facing a Cancer diagnosis. If you are dealing with Cancer, please consider reaching out and using this service. By using this confidential service, members will be connected to a Nurse Navigator who becomes your advocate within the health system and stays with you from diagnosis to recovery. For more information on this excellent program please read

<https://www.otip.com/Why-OTIP/News/Facing-cancer-together-with-CAREpath>

CAREpath Cancer Assist Program—Part of the CarePath program, assistance is also available to members and their families with a Survivor Support Program and a Cancer Information Line staffed by medical professionals to answer questions.

<http://otip.carepath.ca/>

Express Scripts— This service offers members home delivery for their maintenance prescriptions. Members can receive 90 days of medication for a \$9 dispensing fee.

<http://express-scripts.ca/OTIP>

Seniors Care Assistance Program—Available to members and their families trying to navigate senior support services and programs in Canada. This is a recommended program for any members looking after parents and trying to navigate the senior supports available in health care. [https://www.otip.com/OTIP/media/OtipRaeoMedia/PDFs/](https://www.otip.com/OTIP/media/OtipRaeoMedia/PDFs/OTIPBayshore_2017.pdf)

[OTIPBayshore 2017.pdf](https://www.otip.com/OTIP/media/OtipRaeoMedia/PDFs/OTIPBayshore_2017.pdf)

OMERS Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) - Part of our members pension plan, AVC's allow members to make additional payments to top up and add to their pension, thereby increasing their pension at retirement.



OSSTF BENEFITS MEMORANDUM

To: Bargaining Unit Presidents

From: Donna Morrison, Executive Director

Date: January 22, 2018

Re: T4A Tax Slips

The OSSTF Benefits plan provides Basic Life Insurance and AD&D (Accidental Death and Dismemberment) benefits based on 2 times annual earnings. The funding for these benefits is from the negotiated FTE funding for active members and there is no required member contribution. Therefore, the Life & AD&D premium is a taxable benefit and members will be receiving T4A tax slips from OTIP for these taxable benefits by the end of February.

These taxable benefit amounts are calculated based on the cost of Life and AD&D premiums paid for the 2017 calendar year (January to December). Prior to transition into the OSSTF ELHT, these amounts would have been reported to members on their T4 from their employer.

Note:

For Ontario residents only, the funded Life and AD&D premium are taxable benefits, however for Quebec residents, funded health and dental amounts will also be reported on the T4A tax slips.

If you have any questions please contact Donna Morrison, Executive Director at

donna.morrison@osstfbenefits.ca.

Join Us!

We have openings for Branch Reps!

The time commitment for Branch Reps is 1 meeting per month 5pm to 7pm from Sept to June.

We offer training and support along the way, so you are never on your own to deal with a situation.

This year we are planning activities, new ways to communicate with members and ways to be involved in our community.

If you are interested in joining, you are welcome to come out to one of our meetings OR contact a branch rep for more details.

Meeting dates are posted on our website www.osstf21.ca

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.osstf21.ca/>

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Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
OCTU-OSSTF-District-21-
1501189143295693/](https://www.facebook.com/OCTU-OSSTF-District-21-1501189143295693/)

OSSTF at the Ed Centre!

We have a brand new bulletin board installed for OSSTF information at the Ed Centre. It is located on the main floor near the elevators. We are working on getting it prepared with information for members. OCTU will be constantly posting information on this board so be sure to check it out!



OSSTF established since Dec 30, 1919