



OCTU D21 NEWS

OCTU District 21 Newsletter

June 2018

A letter from our President:

Welcome to June!

It is hard to believe the end of another school/federation year is upon us. It has been a year of challenges, positive moments, and growth in participation. Your Executive and Council have worked tirelessly all year to represent our bargaining unit. I appreciate their ongoing support as well as the ongoing support of the membership. We look forward to continuing to grow and improve our communication moving ahead.

There is no better time than now to consider getting involved. Maybe you will consider becoming a branch rep, maybe you want to be a part of the team that works on our collective agreement, maybe you have a passion for human rights, or women's advocacy. We are always in need of members with different skills to contribute. We have a number of committees and areas where OCTU members can become involved. The more participation, the more the voices of OCTU are heard and represented.

This entire newsletter is filled with helpful and important information to all OCTU members. I have written my monthly column a little different this month as I wanted to be certain to draw special attention to particular items of interest to members.

OCTU Celebrates 25 years with a Collective Agreement:

2018 marks 25 years OCTU has had a collective agreement with OSSTF as their union! Quoted as being "one of the most comprehensive first collective agreements..." we should be proud of where we started as a bargaining unit and where we have grown to today. We truly have one of the best support staff collective agreements in OSSTF and that is thanks to the local collective bargaining team that negotiated until 4:30 a.m. on February 6, 1993 to protect the rights of our bargaining unit! Attached to this newsletter is an article from a Provincial OSSTF Newsletter - The Negotiator, highlighting OCTU's accomplishments.

Staffing Update:

Recently, we have entered into the final stages of OCTU staffing and are near completion. This will mark the earliest completion of OCTU staffing in years! We have continued to discuss the need to complete staffing earlier than what had become the "norm" of the end of June, and we are happy to report OCTU staffing is near completion. We have had some reductions in certain areas, along with growth in others. Overall, we are seeing additional positions added to the OCTU FTE compliment, which is positive news for the bargaining unit. These positions affect OCTU members located in elementary, secondary, and board office locations. Staffing changes have been communicated to all affected members by joint communication from hr and the union.

We will be sending out 1 final OCTU Newsletter at the end of June to close of the federation year.

We hope to see you out at the few final events of the year including, the OSSTF Retirement Celebration (Wednesday, June 6th), OCTU Paint Night, (Monday, June 11th), Council (Tuesday, June 12th - if considering joining for next year in some capacity), and our final social - Appetizers After Work (date TBD).

Samantha

Key Dates

June is LGBTQ Month

- **June 6 Retirement Tea**
- **June 7 Election Day—Get out and vote!**
- **June 11 Paint Night**
- **June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day**
- **June 27 Multiculturalism Day**
- **June 29 Last day of school**
- **July 1 Canada Day**
- **Appetizers after work (Date TBD)**



OCTU Paint Night—Monday June 11

Paint night has spots open! - If you are interested in registering for paint night, please contact Brandie at district21@osstf21.ca

If you were on the waitlist for paint night—you have now been registered!

*If we do not have minimum 20 people for this event, we will unfortunately have to cancel this event



Retirement Tea

Please join us this Wednesday, June 6th at St. Naum hall at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate the OSSTF - District 21 Retirees. We have a number of OCTU members who will be celebrating on Wednesday:

Karen Accardo
Linda Cullen
Tara Misener
Joanne Runco
Doris Thomsen-Griffin
Suzanna Wannamaker
Peter Wiwczaruk

these members have RSVP'd as attending

We love being the loudest group to celebrate our retirees, please help us celebrate these members' accomplishments!

Light finger foods will be served and a cash bar will be available.



Quick Fact:

Founded in 1919, OSSTF/FEESO represents almost 60,000 public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, psychologists, secretaries, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, attendance counsellors and many other educational workers.

Source: www.osstf.ca

June is LGBTQ Month!

Why celebrate Pride 2018?

Populist politics: politicians promoting a simple and straightforward message that caters to the emotions of people. It's a type of politics that promises simple solutions to incredibly complex challenges in our society. Slogans like "clean up the swamp" and declarations that "I represent the common man" are simplistic and without much substance, but they resonate in people's minds. People are generally worried about their social status and security, and are often threatened by changes to their environments.

Toronto Star columnist Sabrina Nanji recently wrote, "Populism doesn't just grow on a tree like apples or pears. It has to be produced...you have to have messengers go out who are stoking fears and divisions because one of the crucial aspects of populism is it is turning people against some out-group." Given that this sentiment is on the rise in Ontario, it is no surprise that racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and anti-LGBTQ2SI have reared their ugly and despicable heads again in 2018.

Every year, across the province, communities come together to celebrate Pride. Toronto has one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world. It's an event that honours the history of, and empowers people of, diverse sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expression. From the raising of the Pride Flag on June 1, to Family Pride, the Dyke March, Trans Pride and finally, the Pride Parade, Pride events are symbols of unity, equity, inclusion and diversity.

The theme for PrideToronto 2018 is 35 years of AIDS Activism, which reflects the deep impact the community has faced both in the past and in the present. More than ever, Ontarians require politicians who have a message that is multi-faceted—one that advocates for multiple identities and reflects the complexity of our society. Celebrating Pride in 2018 is more important than it has ever been, as it affirms a place in society for people with diverse histories, needs and identities. And it is inexcusable, if not insulting, that in 2018, some Ontarian politicians do not want to be a part of Pride Celebrations. Please support your local celebrations.

Vanessa Stoby is a teacher in District 16, York Region and a member of the OSSTF/FEESO Equity Advisory Work Group.

OSSTF/FEESO will be marching in the Pride Toronto Parade on Sunday, June 25.

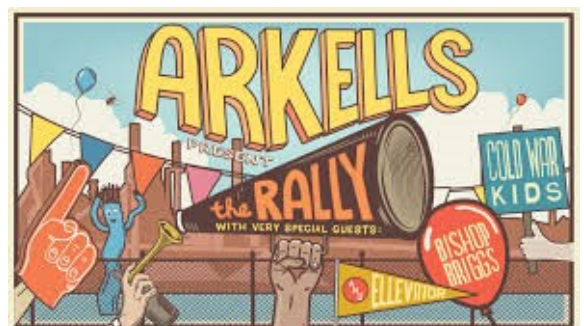
Hamilton Pride Events can be found here: <http://www.pridehamilton.ca/>

Election Day Facebook Competition—WIN ARKELLS TICKETS!

Take a selfie of yourself either at an advanced-poll or on election day sharing your participation in the upcoming Provincial Election. Post it on the OCTU Facebook Page for your chance to win tickets to the Arkells show in Hamilton!! Contest closes at midnight on June 7 2018.

Post your photo to the OCTU Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/OCTU-OSSTF-District-21-1501189143295693/>



National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

Source: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1100100013719>



OFFENCE DECLARATION

Offence Declarations are on your Employee Portal in myHWDSB. Please ensure you complete this ASAP—as it is a mandatory part of your employment with HWDSB.

Casual Reactivation Forms

Casual members will need to submit the Casual Reactivation form in order to stay on the list for September 2018. If you are a casual member, you can find this form on myHWDSB—please submit it to HR before the end of June.



OCTU Socials

We have held a number of socials this federation year from open houses, paint nights, a night at the horse races, axe throwing, workshops, to OCTU appreciation night! It truly has been an incredibly successful year of social events that has shown as growth in member participation at other events such as PD Day and the AGM. We are holding our final Executive meeting this week where we will discuss future social events for the 2018-2019 federation year for members. We look forward to continuing to offer creative and fun social events at low costs to members. Please let us know if you have ideas, and/or would be interested in helping organized some of these events.

AGM Recap

We have seen a growth in member participation at meetings and workshops held throughout the year. Our most recent, OCTU AGM, had the highest number of attendees on record in years with 83 members attending. While this is a high number, it is just under 15% of the total number of OCTU members who could potentially attend. The AGM is the business meeting of the year where important changes to how OCTU organizes ourselves, and structures our rules and guidelines are made. It is important you exercise your right to have a say in these changes and on electing those who work on your behalf. Please consider attending next years AGM to ensure you have your say!

The members who attended this year were treated to an evening of great entertainment, great food, and great company! Fun was had by all! Please check out our OCTU Facebook page to see all of the pictures from the evening.

Congratulations to:

Lori Millar - OCTU Branch Award Winner

Lisa Hiscox - OCTU Service Award Winner

Provincial Election

Election day is this Thursday, June 7th! If you have not already voted at the advance polls, please make sure you get out and vote on Thursday. We urge all OSSTF members and their friends and family to get out and vote! Locally, OSSTF District 21 has endorsed NDP candidates of the Hamilton ridings and encourage members to consider doing so when marking their ballot on June 7th. With Kathleen Wynne facing defeat, it is important everyone make their vote count.



May 30, 2018

D/BU #147/2017-2018

**Workplace Sexual Violence,
Assault and Harassment Survey 2018**

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Harvey Bischof, President

For Action

As outlined in the 2017 Annual Action Plan, OSSTF/FEESO is conducting a survey of members that will address the issue of workplace sexual violence, assault and harassment. The survey is available in both English and French.

The Federation asked the Vector Poll™ to conduct this survey by sending an email to a random sample of members asking them to complete a short, confidential survey. The email will include a unique passcode required to access the survey. The passcode will ensure only one survey is completed per member. In addition to the random sample of members, all OSSTF/FEESO members who attend committee and council meetings, as well as our Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly, are included in the random sample.

There will be no disclosure of any individual member's opinions. The passcode is not linked to a member name when Vector Research analyzes the results.

The survey results will help OSSTF/FEESO to make informed decisions about the development of resources for leaders and members, as well as Federation policies, procedures and practices.

The Vector Poll™ is a member of the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association (MRIA), the standards setting body for opinion research in Canada. The MRIA website is www.mria-arim.ca, where you can view the research industry privacy code. If there are any questions about the survey, please contact Tracey Marshall, Executive Assistant, 416-751-8300, 800-267-7867 or tracey.marshall@osstf.ca. (All inquiries are kept confidential.)

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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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