



OCTU D21 NEWS

OCTU District 21 Newsletter

December 2017

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

It is hard to believe we are in the month of December as I write this, the temperature is 9 degrees! While the weather certainly has been kind so far, I am not sure how much longer we will be so spoiled.

While members are busy in both work and personal lives, your OCTU Executive and Council have been keeping busy as well. We recently had an opportunity to send 10 of our members to an OSSTF Support Staff Summit in November with some great chances for networking and learning. Those who attended observed a phenomenal workshop on Domestic Abuse in the workplace presented by the Canadian Labour Council which focused on ways to support fellow colleagues who may be facing domestic abuse in their lives. The impact of this workshop was incredible and something we hope to make available for all members.

We are in the middle of planning and hosting some great social events for the members to attend that have been very well received and we look forward to organizing many more in the new year! We will be looking at planning a Retirement Workshop hosted by OTIP and Educators Financial sometime in late January. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

As you all know, our annual OCTU PD Day will be here before we know it! We are hosting this FULL DAY event on Friday, March 2, 2018. Your PD Officer, Jackie McDonald and I have begun the early planning stages and will go into full force come January. We are always looking for donations for door prizes, and can provide a donation request letter if you are able to contribute. Please let us know if you have any suggestions to make this event our best yet! We look forward to hosting ALL OCTU members (casual and permanent) on this day.

HWDSB has recently hired 25 new OCTU Casual Members that I had the pleasure of speaking to at their orientation session. I love having the opportunity to meet our new members and share some information about what it means to belong to a union and be a part of OCTU. Please give them a warm welcome as they begin to work in your sites shortly.

With the holiday season upon us it is important we remember those in need and help when we can. OCTU is requesting donations for the "House full of Hope" campaign with Hamilton Interval House. Interval house offers support to women and children who face domestic abuse and require services of a shelter or outreach services. Please see the flyer attached to this email. Items can be dropped off at the OSSTF office or with your branch reps or please contact us for pick up of items. Let's work together to bring some support to these families and make their holiday season a little more happy.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Samantha
Happy Holidays!

Key Dates

- **Nov 25—Dec 10**
16 days of
Activism against
gender based
violence
- **Dec 6** OCTU
Paint night social
- **Dec 6**
The National
Day for
Remembrance
and Action on
Violence Against
Women
- **Dec 10**
International
Human Rights
Day
- **Dec 25—Jan 5**
Winter Break
Holiday Hours
in Effect
- **Dec 29** OSSTF
98th Anniversary



The National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada. This day marks the 28th anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women.

Why a National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women?

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

November and December are important months for raising awareness of gender-based violence in Canada and around the world. In addition to the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence

Holiday Hours

The winter break will be here soon! Just a reminder that holiday hours are in effect for 12 month employees during the break.

This means 12 month employees must work a 6 hour work day with a 30 minute lunch break.

OCTU 10 month employees are not required to work during the break Dec 25 thru Jan 5

OCTU 12 month employees are not required to work during Board mandated holidays which are December 25, 26, 29 and January 1

All employees are expected back to work on January 8, 2018.

If you have any questions about holiday hours, please contact your branch rep.

Member Events

Have you or an immediate family member recently celebrated a milestone in your life? A marriage? the birth of a child? Or have you suffered a loss or sickness? Please let your branch rep know if you or any OCTU member you know of is experiencing a milestone or tragedy. We are here to support our members and would like to send gifts of support to our members during their happiest or hardest times.

Concussion Policy

The concussion policy and procedure is something all HWDSB staff should be aware of as it is part of the compliance training. Concussions are very serious and can have long lasting effects on a person's physical, mental and emotional well being. It is important that the proper diagnosis be made by a medical practitioner and that the proper procedures are followed to assist anyone who may have sustained a concussion or head injury.

However, the paperwork that is used to document a concussion needs to be filled out by supervisory staff. They are usually the first on the scene and have the authority and training to make decisions on a student's well being.

OCTU staff are not supervisory staff. Any forms that are used to identify or document a concussion are not to be filled out by an OCTU member. This is similar to the policy that states OCTU members are not responsible for supervising any students sent to the office. If supervision is required or the concussion documents need to be filled out, please have a teacher or administrator use these documents. This is as per the HWDSB Concussion Procedure.

If any OCTU members are being asked to identify, use or document concussions or the concussion related forms, please contact Samantha.



Flamboro Downs

Our event at Flamboro Downs was a success! Thank you to all the members who participated—We had a big group and a lot of fun! Our group had a delicious dinner, a photo taken with the winning horse in race 5—which was named after OSSTF OCTU D21 and some fun at the races and the slots! Please see our Facebook page for more photos from this great evening!

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:

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Collecting members information

All bargaining units in OSSTF are being asked to update their information on file with the union. The form is attached with this newsletter, for your convenience. Please fill it out and send it back to OCTU District 21 or email your completed form to Brandie at district21@osstf21.ca

We are looking to collect updated address, phone and email contact info for our members.

This is to ensure that we are able to keep our members up to date with information and will be especially important when we start negotiations for the collective agreement next year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your branch rep.

**We wish all OCTU Members a safe and happy holiday season!
See you in the New Year!**