



OCTU D21 NEWS

OCTU District 21 Provincial Election Newsletter

May 2018

ELECTION 2018

Election Day—June 7, 2018

Ontario is heading to the polls and as we go towards election day, it is important to recognize the weight your vote has in determining Ontario's future. A notable quote I found recently, does a pretty good job at explaining why complacency in elections should not occur in this era:

"Wars have been fought over our right to have a democracy and blood has been shed so that the citizens can exercise their right to vote for their government and laws. While many (sadly) often take the freedom to vote for granted in today's day and age, it's important to remember that not every human has this right available to them. Because we're lucky enough to have this right, though, we should always take our ability to vote seriously — and everyone should always vote, no matter how they're feeling about the particular candidates who are running. It's unbelievably important."

Source: <https://www.bustle.com/articles/190603-11-patriotic-quotes-about-voting-that-capture-the-importance-of-democracy>

With so much change happening globally, Ontario needs a leader that will help us to protect the environment, protect our economy and jobs and protect Ontario citizens and workers. While OSSTF does not tell members who to vote for— OSSTF at the Provincial and District levels have voted to endorse members of the NDP.

It is important to note that this decision is mainly based on the interest of protecting education workers and what we stand for as a union. This includes OCTU members. As you may remember in the days of Mike Harris, unions were forced to strike and fight for jobs and the rights of members across Ontario. In the recent system of Kathleen Wynne, through Bill 115, education workers saw their wages frozen, were also forced to strike and OSSTF eventually had to fight for our legal rights which were stripped away under Bill 115.

OSSTF collective agreements will be coming up for renewal in September 2019. Voting for a party that protects workers and aligns with the actions and platforms requested by education workers and their unions will help ensure we get a fair deal when we are in negotiations. While OSSTF does not tell members who to vote for, any party or candidate that might affect members wages and employment is top priority for us and we hope this will be a considering factor in who you vote for when you go to the polls on June 7.

In Solidarity

Lisa Hiscox
CPAC Executive Officer

Key Dates

- May 26 Advance Polls Open
- June 7—Election Day!

Get out and Vote!



PUBLIC EDUCATION
it's for everyone

L'ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE
c'est pour tout le monde



Advance Polls Information

If you are not able to get out and vote on June 7—consider dropping by an advance poll in your area. Advance polls open on May 26 and conveniently have locations in each riding. To find out where you can access an advance poll in your area, log on to

<https://voterinformationselections.on.ca/en/election/search>

Enter your postal code and find out all the information you need to vote in your area.



Voter Identification

In order to vote in the election you must be a Canadian citizen and resident of Ontario. When you go to your voting station you must bring your voting information card, which you will receive in the mail. If you do not receive a voting information card, you can still go to a polling station and bring your ID with you to be added to the list.

Examples of acceptable ID: Ontario driver's licence, Ontario photo card, Ontario motor vehicle permit, Statement of government benefits, CNIB ID, Band council identification, Bank statement, Credit card statement, Loan statement or agreement, Utility bill, Cell phone bill, Insurance policy or statement, Hospital record or document, Residential lease, Mortgage agreement or statement, Cheque stub, T4 slip or pay receipt, School admissions letter, Transcript or report card, School tuition or fees statement.



Election Quote of the Day:

Voters don't decide issues, they decide who will decide issues.

~George Will

Who do you want deciding for you??

What's New for Ontario Elections?



WHAT'S
NEW?

Elections Ontario will be introducing technology in the polls for the 2018 General Election. Election officials will be using electronic poll books (e-Poll books) and vote tabulators across the province for advance voting. On election day, 50% of the polls will have vote tabulators and e-Poll books serving 90% of electors.

ePoll Books

The e-Poll books contain the full Voters List for the entire electoral district and replace paper-based Voters Lists. Election officials will scan the barcode on your Voter Information Card and the e Poll book will return your entry. Election officials will also be able to search the e-Poll books for voters without a Voter Information Card, and use the e-Poll books to add or update voter's information on the Voters List. All e-Poll books are encrypted and password protected to protect voters' personal information and the integrity of the voting process

Vote Tabulators

Vote tabulators electronically count each ballot and generate results after polls close. You will mark your ballot and place it into a secrecy folder before returning it to the poll official operating the tabulator. The poll official will feed the ballot face down into the tabulator. A report with the results is printed after polls close on election night, at 9 P.M. (Eastern Time).

New funding rules

Since Jan. 1, 2017, the political parties have been banned from receiving donations from corporations and unions. That means only an individual can give money, and the maximum amount an individual can give to parties and candidates in a given year is now just \$3,600 a year, down from \$23,275.

Unions and special interest groups will be limited to spending \$600,000 in the six months before the campaign and \$100,000 during the campaign.

Taxpayer funding for political parties

Although the ban on corporate and union donations constrains parties fundraising, they have a new source of revenue: taxpayers. All parties who received at least two per cent of the popular vote in the last election are getting an annual allowance of \$2.71 per vote. It means the three official parties and the Green Party of Ontario get the following amounts:

- Liberal: \$5.06 million
- PC: \$4.09 million
- NDP: \$3.1 million
- Green: \$630,000

15 new seats, all in cities

Due to Ontario's population growth an expansion in the number of ridings has been introduced for the 2018 election. There will be 122 seats in the 2018 election, up from 107 in the 2014 race. The new seats are all in urban areas. The change means a party will need to win 63 seats for a majority.



Who are your candidates?

Flamborough-Glanbrook

Melissa McGlashan (NDP)
Janet Errygers (Green)
Judi Partridge (Liberal)
Donna Skelly (PC)

Hamilton Mountain

Monique Taylor (NDP)
David Urquhart (Green)
Damin Starr (Liberal)
Esther Pauls (PC)

Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

Paul Miller (NDP)
Brian Munroe (Green)
Jennifer Stebbing (Liberal)
Akash Grewal (PC)

Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas

Sandy Shaw (NDP)
Peter Ormond (Green)
Ted McMeekin (Liberal)
Ben Levitt (PC)

Hamilton Centre

Andrea Horwath (NDP)
Jason Lopez (Green)
Deirdre Pike (Liberal)
Dionne Duncan (PC)

Decisions...

Decisions...

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Public Education—It's for Everyone!

Public education in Ontario has a long tradition of providing students with the knowledge, skills and sense of community they need to find success and contribute in a meaningful way to the social and economic fabric of a prosperous and dynamic province.

OSSTF/FEESO believes strongly in that tradition, but we also recognize that in a rapidly growing and changing Ontario, there's always more work to do to ensure that public education continues to meet the needs of all who rely on it.

We believe that the publicly-funded education system should recognize the following principles:

- **UNIVERSALITY**—access for everyone
- **COMPREHENSIVENESS**—opportunity for everyone
- **PROFICIENCY**—achievement for everyone
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**—value for everyone

Ontario's public education system is perhaps the province's most important asset. OSSTF/FEESO members continue to dedicate their time and energy to protecting and enhancing that system, just as we have for almost 100 years. And we believe it's important for Ontario's government to have a similar commitment to ensuring that public education works for everyone.

OSSTF/FEESO's Provincial Election Platform

Here is what we believe the Ontario Government needs to do to protect and enhance publicly-funded education in our province:

Early Learning

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR:

- ◆ Equitable and timely access to professional student services to ensure that the Early Learning team is fully prepared to help every child reach their full potential.
- ◆ A commitment to safeguard the well-being of children with special needs through the presence of highly-trained educational assistants. When we do this, we enhance the learning of every child in the classroom.
- ◆ A teacher and an early childhood educator in each kindergarten classroom to ensure a robust, play-based learning environment where every student will benefit and feel supported.
- ◆ School boards to spend their Early Learning funding allocation on kindergarten classrooms.

More Professional Support for all Students

OSSTF/FEESO CALLS FOR A BEST-PRACTICE STUDENT SERVICES MODEL THAT INCLUDES:

- ◆ An increase in school and community services available to students with mental health issues.
- ◆ More school-based speech and language services, which are needed to support students in the classroom.
- ◆ Increased funding for services provided by board-employed practitioners.
- ◆ Predictable, stable and dedicated funding which will ensure a high level of service across the province, regardless of school board.
- ◆ Increasing mental health literacy for educators.
- ◆ Appropriate violence prevention resources and space.
- ◆ An education sector regulation under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Professional Judgement and Collaboration

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR:

- ◆ A commitment that the next government will require all boards of education in Ontario to implement joint consultation committees with OSSTF/FEESO at the board and school level.
- ◆ A commitment that the professional judgement of education workers be formally recognized as a key factor in determining instructional strategies and student assessment.
- ◆ A commitment that the EQAO and its testing programs will be discontinued, and that savings generated will be reinvested into student learning.

OSSTF/FEESO's Provincial Election Platform Continued...

Funding Formula

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR AN INCLUSIVE FUNDING FORMULA BASED ON A NEW SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT SUPPORT:

- ◆ A full range of services and programs available to all students.
- ◆ The diversity of our students.
- ◆ Targeted funding for special needs students.
- ◆ Early learning programs to improve achievement in later grades.
- ◆ Equitable access to professional services that meet the needs of all students.
- ◆ Well-maintained, safe and accessible school infrastructure.
- ◆ Access to technology and other learning tools.
- ◆ The maintenance of funding levels through adjustments for inflation.
- ◆ The full education team.

University Funding and Oversight

OSSTF/FEESO CALLS FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN UNIVERSITY FUNDING, INCLUDING:

- ◆ A commitment to increase and maintain stable, dedicated funding for all universities to ensure that quality student services and supports are maintained year over year.
- ◆ A commitment that dedicated funding will be targeted to specific student needs at all universities.
- ◆ A commitment that increases in student enrolment will mean increased staffing levels to ensure that student needs are met.
- ◆ A commitment to examine and assess the oversight and transparency of university spending decisions, with an eye to ensuring that Ontario's universities serve the interests of both students and the broader community.

One Public Education System in Each Official Language

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR:

- ◆ An all-party task force to look into the merits and challenges of moving to one public secular school system in each official language, to be convened immediately.
- ◆ Savings realized from a merger of systems to be reinvested back into the education system to enhance the quality of education and the availability of services that students need.
- ◆ All education stakeholders to be involved in a discussion about the future of publicly-funded education in Ontario, accessible to all students.

School Boards Collective Bargaining Act

OSSTF/FEESO IS CALLING FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL BOARDS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ACT:

- ◆ Central bargaining should be between the unions and the government.
- ◆ The role of school board associations in central bargaining should be consultative only and they should not be involved in a decision-making capacity.
- ◆ There should be one central table for OSSTF/FEESO teachers and support staff.
- ◆ Issues covered by central bargaining should be limited to salary, benefits and other funding-related matters, unless additions are made by mutual agreement.

ELECTION EVENTS



Join us for one of our Election events! We are holding two events to get members ready to go out and vote!

We will be at the HWDSB office on Friday May 25 11am-1pm

We are also holding an Open House at the OSSTF office on Tuesday May 29 4-7pm

Speak to local leaders! Grab a bite to eat! Pick up some election swag and information and have a chance to win tickets to the Arkells in Hamilton OR Win a gift card!

Please see the flyers that were attached with this newsletter for full details. These events are open to all OSSTF members —We look forward to seeing OCTU members there!

Contact Us

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PUBLIC EDUCATION
it's for everyone
L'ÉDUCATION PUBLIQUE
c'est pour tout le monde



CHANGE
STARTS HERE.
CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

**Candidates will be squaring off
on a televised debate Sunday
May 27 at 6:30pm on CBC**



**Ontario
Election**
June 7, 2018