

Equity Statement

OSSTF/FEESO is a democratic union that recognizes the importance of encouraging and supporting involvement by all members, while recognizing that some members have historically been marginalized. For the Federation to be at its best, all members must see themselves reflected in its goals, structures, and practices. OSSTF/FEESO will strive to identify and eliminate barriers to participation through programs, procedures, bylaws, and policies supported by specified resources and education.

OSSTF/FEESO supports equity, diversity, and social justice within the union, the workplace, and in broader society.

Not all discrimination is deliberate or visible. Inadvertent, hidden, and systemic discrimination must be identified and addressed.

Discrimination and harassment must not be ignored when we see it. Overt discrimination and harassment within the Federation must be challenged and rectified.

The marginalization of certain groups must be specifically recognized. For OSSTF/FEESO, these groups include, but are not necessarily limited to, women, people of colour, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, questioning, two-spirit, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, people with disabilities, francophone, and those whose participation is impeded because of their creed, economic circumstances or family status.

Equal opportunity to participate in the Federation does not mean treating all members the same. Within a democratic framework, promoting the engagement of members of equity-seeking groups is a valid and necessary approach to reaching equal outcomes.

OSSTF/FEESO will be guided in its efforts to eliminate barriers by valid research, regular review, and consultation with the membership.

Federation programs and policies designed to eliminate barriers must not only do so, they must be widely seen to do so.