

Equity Update since April 2026

OSSTF/FEESO is deeply committed to equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression work so that our Federation, workplaces, and communities are equitable, inclusive, and accessible spaces. The Federation continues to be engaged in several activities as per the Action Plan to Support Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression. A few of the completed and ongoing actions are found below.

National AccessAbility Week: May 31 to June 6, 2026

[National AccessAbility Week \(NAAW\), celebrated from May 31 to June 6, 2026](#), in Ontario and across Canada, is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities and promote efforts to remove barriers and create more inclusive environments. This year's theme, "Building a Strong, Accessible Canada," highlights the importance of accessibility as a human right and the shared responsibility to advance equity, inclusion, and meaningful participation for all.

This year also marked the fourth [Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion](#), which took place on May 28, 2026. The event opened with welcome remarks from Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families, and featured a panel discussion titled "Building Canada Strong Through Inclusion: Accessibility as a Nation-Building Strategy." The goal of the Congress was to help drive accessible and inclusively designed communities and workplaces across Canada while advancing conversations on accessibility, inclusion, and disability rights.

2026 CTF/FCE Women's Symposium

From April 30 to May 2, 2026, women education leaders from across Canada gathered in Toronto for the annual [Canadian Teachers' Federation \(CTF/FCE\) Women's Symposium](#) under the theme, *Our Roots Our Strength, Our Rise*. In addition to OSSTF/FEESO, this year's Symposium was co-hosted by [the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens \(AEFO\)](#), [Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario \(ETFO\)](#), [Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association \(OECTA\)](#), and [Ontario Teachers' Federation \(OTF\)](#).

Participants engaged in plenary sessions and workshops focused on equity, leadership, solidarity, wellness, and advocacy. OSSTF/FEESO President Martha Hradowy joined Linda Silas, President of the [Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions](#), on a panel discussing workplace violence in feminized professions. The conversation highlighted the growing pressures facing workers in education and healthcare and the importance of collective action and advocacy.

OSSTF/FEESO Status of Women Regions 1 & 5 Training

During the month of May, the Provincial Status of Women Committee (SWC) hosted its regional training for regions 1 and 5 focused on strengthening local capacity to support equity, advocacy, and issues impacting women within the Federation. The training provided participants with opportunities to deepen their understanding of key issues affecting women in education and union spaces while exploring practical strategies to support this work at the local level.

Workshops were delivered by members of the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Status of Women Committee, Provincial Office staff, [Educators Financial Group](#), and [Beendigen](#), an Anishinabe women's crisis home and family healing agency. Sessions focused on leadership, advocacy, wellness, financial literacy, and violence prevention.

Status of Women Officers are encouraged to save the date for the joint Human Rights Committee and Status of Women Committee Conference taking place from May 7 to 8, 2027.

Friends of Grassy Narrows

In November 2025, the group Friends of Grassy Narrows presented to the OSSTF/FEESO First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Workgroup on the ongoing advocacy and actions being led by Grassy Narrows First Nation. Following the meeting, Friends of Grassy Narrows asked the Provincial Executive to formally endorse the demands of Grassy Narrows First Nation and encourage members, locals, and Districts to demonstrate their support through public advocacy and participation in solidarity actions. This endorsement has occurred.

In September 2026, members of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Workgroup will also be invited to attend the River Run to Support Grassy Narrows in Toronto on September 23, 2026.

To strengthen solidarity and relationships between Grassy Narrows and OSSTF/FEESO, a member education piece will be published in May 2026 edition of OSSTF/FEESO Update. Additional outreach between Friends of Grassy Narrows and OSSTF/FEESO Districts and Bargaining Units is also being planned.

[Click here to RSVP to the Grassy Narrows River Run Rally – September 23, 2026](#)

Pride Across Ontario: Building Solidarity in Our Communities

OSSTF/FEESO is proud to continue supporting Pride celebrations across Ontario and recognizing the importance of uplifting 2SLGBTQIA+ members, students, families, and communities. This year, the focus is on celebrating and highlighting local Pride events and the involvement of Districts/Bargaining Units.

Districts/Bargaining Units are encouraged to participate in local Pride events, share photos, and videos on social media by tagging @osstf, or send submissions directly to Provincial Office at photos@osstf.ca. Participating Districts/Bargaining Units will be entered into a raffle for a Pride prize package that includes a new Pride umbrella, Pride T-shirts, and other OSSTF/FEESO items.

To support Pride outreach efforts, OSSTF/FEESO has introduced new Pride-themed giveaway materials, including branded markers, new holographic stickers, gymnastic ribbons, and colouring books designed and printed by our in-house Graphics and Production

teams. Additional resources from the 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee and [the Canadian Labour of Congress \(CLC\)](#) have also been added to the Pride Resources Dropbox.

OSSTF/FEESO will host an information booth at the Pride Toronto Street Fair on June 27 and 28 and will march alongside the [Ontario Federation of Labour \(OFL\)](#) in the Pride Toronto Parade on Sunday, June 28 as a show of solidarity across the labour movement.

A list of local Pride events and activities in communities throughout Ontario is available on the [Ontario Pride website](#).

Violence Prevention, Response, and Policy in Ontario Schools

Sheena Brennan is currently conducting research focused on teacher experiences with unwanted sexual behaviours from students. Teacher members who have experienced workplace sexual violence originating from students are encouraged to consider participating in a confidential 60-90 minute virtual interview.

The research seeks to centre teachers' voices and better understand how educators experience, interpret, and respond to incidents of sexual harassment, as well as how school policies, procedures, and institutional supports shape these experiences. Findings from the study will help amplify lived experiences often missing from policy discussions and contribute to recommendations for more responsive reporting processes and supports.

Participation is voluntary and interviews will be conducted in English.

[Recruitment Flyer: Research Project, Ontario K-12 Teachers' Experiences of Sexual Harassment by Students](#)

Toronto Caribbean Junior Carnival 2026

OSSTF/FEESO is proud once again to be a sponsor of the [Toronto Caribbean Junior Carnival](#) events. The Junior Carnival activities celebrate youth and bring together Caribbean communities and many other diverse communities across the Greater Toronto Area. Over 40,000 parents, youth, and community members are expected to participate in or spectate at the various family-friendly events. OSSTF/FEESO will have a booth at the event on Saturday, July 18, 2026, during the Junior Carnival Parade.

The Bargaining Unit Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Officer Conference (2026)

- **Save the Date:**

Friday, October 23, to Saturday October 24, 2026 (Crowne Plaza Toronto, formerly The Pan Pacific, 900 York Mills)

Registration will open in September 2026.

- Funding is still available under Account 2018 (Anti-Racism and Equity Training for Bargaining Units/Districts) and Account 2890 (Anti-Racism and Equity Training for Members) for the 2025/2026 year. **All training must be completed by June 30, 2026, to be eligible for funding for this Federation year.**

[Account #2018 \(Anti-Racism and Equity Training for Bargaining Units/Districts\)](#)

[Account #2890 \(Anti-Racism and Equity Training for Members\)](#)