

The OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive is pleased to present the PE Liaison Report. Please distribute widely and direct questions to your PE Liaison.

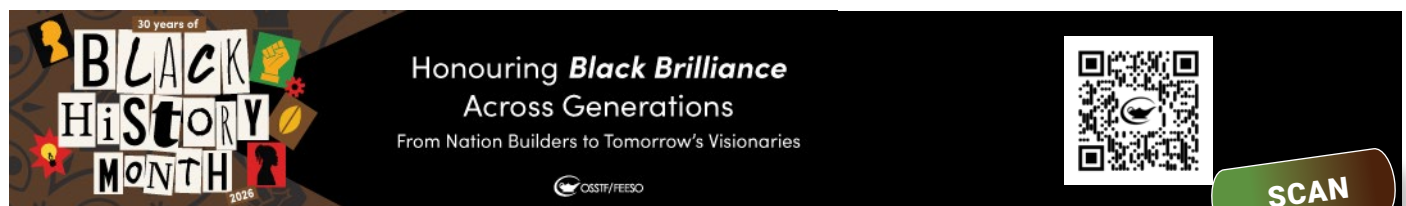
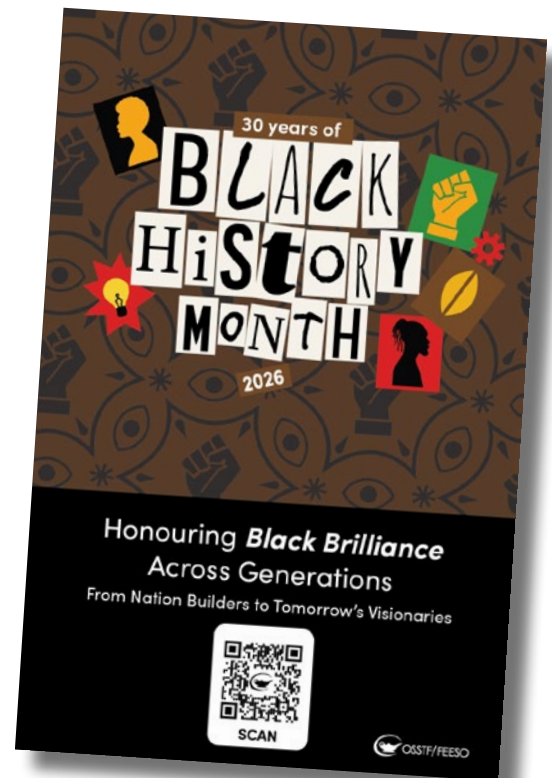
## Sovereignty and Social Justice

### Black History Month 2026: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations

Each February, Black History Month celebrates the experiences, achievements, and lasting contributions of Black communities in Canada, while deepening our understanding of their history and impact on society. This year marks a significant milestone—**30 years of Black History Month in Canada**. The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, announced the theme: [“30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations-From Nation Builders to Tomorrow’s Visionaries.”](#) This theme recognizes the leadership, creativity, innovation, and resilience of Black Canadians who have shaped the past, influenced the present, and inspired the future. The Federal government announced the theme at the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia, a hub that showcases and preserves, promotes and celebrates the history, culture and contributions of African Nova Scotians. Also, the government will be funding more than \$280,000 for nine projects in the Atlantic Region that will highlight Black History Month.

In addition, the Canadian Labour Congress Canada’s unions are marking Black History Month by calling for an end to environmental racism. The federal government’s first National Strategy on Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice is a historic opportunity to address systemic inequities. It must include meaningful consultation, funding for community-led solutions, strong job protections, and race-based data collection. [Send a letter](#) today to the government to urge swift action for equity, sustainability, and climate resilience.

For Black History Month OSSTF/FEESO has created over the last couple years some resources to celebrate and invite members to learn about the diversity and accomplishments of Black Canadians across the country. Please see the following two links to access the information: [365 Days of Black Excellence](#) and [Celebrating Black Intersectionality](#).



## White Ribbon Pilot E-Course Now Available to OSSTF/FEESO Members

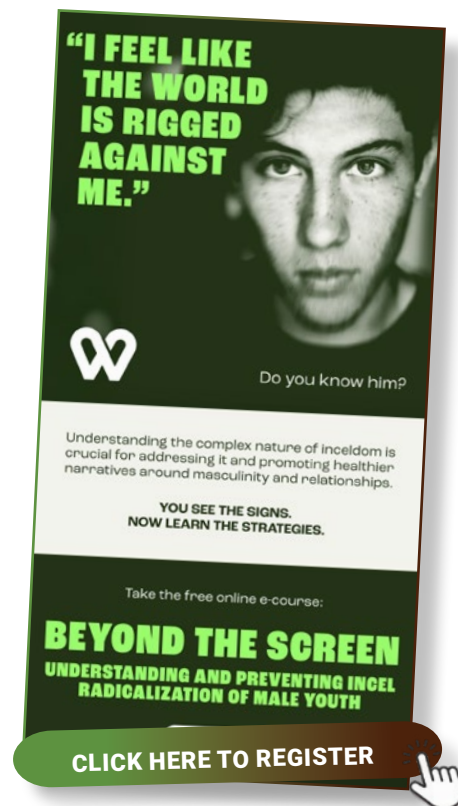
OSSTF/FEESO members and select education affiliates and community partners are invited to participate in *Beyond the Screen: Understanding and Preventing Incel Radicalization of Male Youth*, a free, self-led online e-course developed by [White Ribbon](#).

As the manosphere continues to grow and pull young men toward harmful ideologies, this timely learning opportunity equips education workers with the knowledge and tools to intervene early and effectively. Designed for professionals working with youth in Ontario schools, the course builds awareness of gender dynamics, online radicalization tactics, and early warning signs, supporting early intervention, gender equity, and youth resilience before harm occurs.

The e-course includes, three (3) self-paced modules, is available in English and French, takes approximately 8–9 hours to complete across flexible learning segments, and provides a certificate of completion. **Participants will be required to verify their membership with OSSTF/FEESO.**

This pilot e-course represents a meaningful opportunity for OSSTF/FEESO members to be at the forefront of prevention work, helping shape solutions.

Please support this important project, and strengthen safer, more inclusive school communities by sharing this opportunity within your Districts, Bargaining Units, and worksites.



## High School Too Project

The *High School Too Project* is a province-wide, student-led initiative developed in response to the #MeToo movement and growing calls from young people for meaningful action on consent, accountability, and safety in Ontario secondary schools. Rooted in care-centred and trauma-informed approaches, the project focuses on strengthening consent culture and improving how disclosures of sexual harassment and sexual assault are understood, received, and responded to within school communities. High School Too centres student voice while engaging education workers and community partners to ensure responses are informed, compassionate, and grounded in real school experiences.

OSSTF/FEESO has recently begun collaborating with High School Too, reflecting the Federation's ongoing commitment to equity, student well-being, and safe, inclusive learning environments. Through this work, OSSTF/FEESO is contributing professional expertise and sector knowledge to support the development and review of resources designed to assist education workers in responding to disclosures with care, clarity, and appropriate referral pathways. This collaboration aligns with OSSTF/FEESO's long-standing advocacy for trauma-informed practices, and its recognition of the critical role education workers play in supporting students navigating complex and sensitive experiences.

As part of this initiative, two OSSTF/FEESO members and one member of the Provincial Executive will sit on the High School Too Advisory Work Group, alongside other stakeholders, including students and community partners. The High School Too project will continue through to 2027.

**High School Too  
Advisory Work Group**

## Professional Development and Resources

### Coming Soon... Education Forum: The Podcast

OSSTF/FEESO has continued to advance bargaining preparation through a series of focused meetings and coordinated mobilization efforts. There continues to be an emphasis on the importance of member engagement as we enter a critical period leading into negotiations. Throughout the fall and winter, multiple outreach tools—such as virtual sessions, internal planning meetings, and strategic briefings—have supported ongoing updates on priorities, timelines, and readiness activities. Central Bargaining survey Reports were delivered to locals and brief approval meetings will be complete the first week of February. These meetings have reinforced the need for consistent communication with local leaders, ensuring they are equipped with the most current information and resources needed for meaningful participation in the bargaining process.

The mobilization campaign has now moved through the first phase of its broader strategy, which centered on launching and promoting the central bargaining survey. With support from digital outreach, workplace conversations, and in-person engagement opportunities, the survey achieved strong levels of participation across bargaining units. This initiative was designed not only to gather contact information, feedback, and priorities from members but also to reinvigorate collective bargaining engagement. Phase 2 will launch the week of February 9, 2026 with Education Forum: The Podcast and going live with a new campaign website [www.underfunded.ca](http://www.underfunded.ca)



## Legislative Observer Updates

### OSSTF/FEESO Welcomes MPP Mamakwa

On January 20, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO President Martha Hradowy welcomed MPP for Kiiwetinoong, Sol Mamakwa, for an introductory meeting focused on public education and shared priorities. This marked President Hradowy's first meeting with MPP Mamakwa and provided an important opportunity for dialogue, listening, and relationship building. Following this discussion, MPP Mamakwa also met with OSSTF/FEESO's Provincial Executive and Senior Staff.

The conversation highlighted key issues impacting public education in Ontario, including Jordan's Principle, class sizes, and destreaming. Discussions emphasized the importance of equitable access to education, culturally relevant learning, and ensuring that publicly funded education systems better reflect and respond to the lived realities of First Nations students and communities. During the meeting, MPP Mamakwa shared his perspective on the importance of treaty education for all students in Ontario, stating:

***“Ontario students need to learn what treaties are. We always say we are treaty people... I come from Treaty 9—the only treaty with Ontario’s signature—and that’s why I am here as a Member of Provincial Parliament.”***

Following the discussions, MPP Mamakwa was provided with a tour of the OSSTF/FEESO building, offering further opportunity for informal conversation and connection.

Members interested in learning more about Treaty 9, also known as The James Bay Treaty, can visit the Archives of Ontario:

[Click here to access the Archives of Ontario](#)



OSSTF/FEESO appreciates the opportunity to engage with MPP Mamakwa and looks forward to continuing dialogue on issues that impact students, educators, and communities across Ontario, while deepening understanding of treaty relationships and Indigenous education priorities.

### **OSSTF/FEESO Meeting with Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict—January 22, 2026**

On January 22, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO President, Martha Hradowy and Staff met with Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict for an introductory discussion focused on public education and shared priorities.



The conversation highlighted the essential role of public education in supporting students, communities, and Ontario’s future, as well as the significant challenges facing the system. We discussed the importance of adequate, stable funding; culturally responsive education; and

the need for meaningful collaboration to address systemic inequities experienced by First Nations learners in publicly funded schools.

The meeting reinforced the value of building respectful, ongoing relationships and staying connected on education-related issues. OSSTF/FEESO welcomes the opportunity to continue dialogue with the Chiefs of Ontario and to learn from the priorities identified by First Nations leadership.

Members interested in learning more about the work of the Chiefs of Ontario and their education priorities can visit:

[Chiefs of Ontario Official Website](#)

[Chiefs of Ontario Education Priorities](#)

OSSTF/FEESO looks forward to building on this initial meeting and continuing to engage on issues that impact students, educators, and communities across Ontario.

## Ontario Pre-budget Consultations

On, January 22, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO President Martha Hradowy delivered a clear message when she appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs as part of the Ontario government's pre-budget consultations.

"Education is not a cost. It is a core economic benefit," said Hradowy. "Ontario is facing real economic uncertainty. Trade disruption, tariff threats, and supply chain volatility mean we need a skilled and adaptable workforce. That workforce is built through strong, stable public education from kindergarten through post-secondary."

The union is calling for 14 recommendations needed to revitalize education in Ontario under four key commitments:

- A. Invest in our students and publicly funded education to secure the economic future of Ontario to secure the province's long-term economic and social well-being.
- B. Fix the teacher and education worker shortages that are limiting Ontario's schools and campuses that are limiting the capacity of schools, universities, and colleges.
- C. Provide the comprehensive supports that students need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.
- D. Ensure places of working and learning are safe, healthy, and inclusive so every person can thrive.

[Click here to read the full Media Release](#)



[Click here to read the full Brief Submission](#)



---

## Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program

As of December 31, 2025, the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness program has expanded to include the following professions:

- Early Childhood Educators
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Teachers

The Canada Student Loan Forgiveness program is available to people with student loans who:

- Live in a rural area or a community of under 30,000 people
- Are currently in repayment, in their six-month non-repayment period, or in study
- Have been employed in an eligible occupation for the past 12 months (10 months for early childhood educators, psychologists, social workers, and teachers, if they worked in a school)
- provided in-person services for a minimum of 400 hours, and
- have a student loan that is in good standing (must be up to date on your payments)

Note that loan forgiveness can only be applied to the outstanding part of your federal student loan. It does not apply to the provincial or territorial part of your student loans.

Members are encouraged to apply to the program as soon as they are eligible (i.e., as soon as have worked the required length of time in an eligible community). Time worked during 2025 counts toward members' eligibility. Failure to apply within 90 days of becoming eligible may affect the success of your application.

Currently, due to the requirement for 10 months of prior consecutive work, educators may not be eligible to apply until June 2026. Despite lack of certainty from government sources on this question, we recommend that members apply for loan forgiveness at their earliest convenience.

Application materials and further information can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans/repay/assistance/student-loan-forgiveness.html>

For more information contact, **Chris Samuel** at [chris.samuel@osstf.ca](mailto:chris.samuel@osstf.ca).

## Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) News and Updates

### 2026 International Barometer of Education Staff (I-Best)

[The Canadian Teachers' Federation \(CTF/FCE\)](#) is once again partnering with [MGEN](#) and [Education International \(EI\)](#) to launch the 3rd edition of the International Barometer on the Health and Well-being of Education Staff (I-BEST) in Canada. I-BEST is a global survey examining the health, well-being, and working conditions of education personnel. OSSTF/FEESO members are encouraged to participate and add their input to a worldwide effort, joining thousands of education workers across 18 countries and territories.

The I-BEST survey is open to all education staff including teachers, administrative and clerical staff, and support staff working in educational institutions serving students aged 3 to 18 years of age.

The deadline to complete the survey is on **Monday, March 16, 2026**.

[Survey Link](#)



## Highlights

**Special Meeting of Presidents and Chief Negotiators—2026 Central Brief Meeting**  
Thursday, February 5, 2026

**Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Officer Region 3 & 5 Training**  
Friday, March 27 to Saturday, March 28, 2026

**Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA)**  
Friday, March 13 to Monday, March 16, 2026

**Status of Women Regionals**  
Region 5—May 1-2, 2026 and Region 1—May 29, 30, 2026



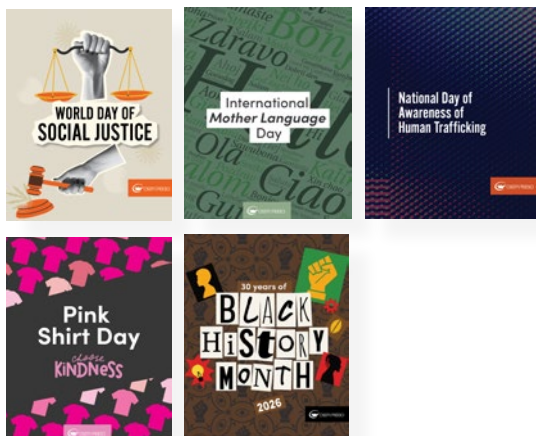
## DBU Memos Issued in January

\*Sign in within the members' section of the website to access President and Local Executive targeted D/BU Memos. [Access the All-Member D/BU Memos for January here.](#)

- |           |  |            |   |
|-----------|--|------------|---|
| <b>85</b> | Call for Content Contributors AMPA 2026 Newsletter Team  | <b>92</b>  | Invitation for Applications—The Seventieth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW70) |
| <b>86</b> | OFL FNMI Application Call Out  | <b>93</b>  | New Eligibility for Canada Student Loan Forgiveness   |
| <b>87</b> | January 2026 Provincial Executive Liaison Report (PELR)  | <b>94</b>  | Expenditure Guidelines—Mileage  |
| <b>88</b> | Invitation for Applications—High School Too Advisory Work Group                                      | <b>95</b>  | Labour College of Canada—Cohort 17  |
| <b>89</b> | Appointment of Executive Assistant in the Member Protection Department, Protective Services Division | <b>96</b>  | CTF Memorandum International Barometer on the Health and Well-Being of Education Staff I-Best Survey  |
| <b>90</b> | Application to Provincial Standing Committees and Councils   | <b>97</b>  | Revised Staff Association Assignments—January 26, 2026  |
| <b>91</b> | Strike by Faculty at Laurentian University   | <b>98</b>  | Violence Prevention, Response, and Policy in Ontario Schools  |
|           |  | <b>100</b> | Strike by Faculty at Nipissing University   |

## Dates of Significance in February

OSSTF/FEESO Provincial social media graphics can be accessed using the hyperlinks below.



**Feb. 1-28** Black History Month

**Feb. 20** World Day of Social Justice

**Feb. 21** International Mother Language Day

**Feb. 22** National Day for Awareness of Human Trafficking

**Feb. 26** Pink Shirt Day

Click here to access the graphics. 