

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

From the **Provincial Executive**

## Welcome Back!

As we begin a new year, OSSTF/FEESO extends our sincere gratitude to the ongoing dedication of our members to the communities you serve. Your commitment, compassion, and solidarity continue to strengthen our collective work and make a meaningful difference across Ontario.

Thank you for all that you do. We wish you and your loved ones a year filled with peace, renewal, and connection.

### OSSTF/FEESO Leadership Update: **Best wishes and warm welcome!**

OSSTF/FEESO extends its heartfelt best wishes to Chris Goodsir, outgoing General Secretary, and thanks him for his dedicated service and leadership to OSSTF/FEESO in various roles over the last 10 years.

We are pleased to welcome Vaino Poysa as our new General Secretary. Vaino brings a wealth of experience to this role, having served as the Associate General Secretary of Protective Services for 4 years and worked at Provincial Office since 2011. His deep knowledge and commitment to member advocacy will be invaluable as we move forward.

Additionally, we welcome Dave Barrowclough as the new Associate General Secretary of Protective Services. Dave previously served as Director of Negotiations and Contract Maintenance, and his expertise in collective bargaining and contract administration will strengthen our efforts in supporting members.

We look forward to the leadership and expertise that Vaino and Dave will bring to OSSTF/FEESO as we continue our work to protect and enhance public education and improve conditions for all education workers.



**Chris Goodsir**  
Outgoing General Secretary



**Dave Barrowclough**  
Incoming Associate General  
Secretary (Protective Services)



**Vaino Poysa**  
Incoming General Secretary

## OSSTF/FEESO Membership Card

**It's Here!**

**Your \*NEW\* OSSTF/FEESO Digital Membership Card**

The new OSSTF/FEESO Digital Membership Card is now available. The digital card serves as your official OSSTF/FEESO membership card and can be added to your Apple or Google Wallet or printed as a PDF if preferred. Digital cards update automatically, ensuring your membership information remains current. For full details on how to request, access, and download your digital membership card, please refer to [D/BU Memo #080](#).



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

As a proud member organization of the [Canadian Teachers' Federation \(CTF/FCE\)](#), OSSTF/FEESO plays an active role in strengthening the national impact of teachers and education workers across Canada. CTF/FCE represents over 370,000 educators and serves as a unifying force to advance high-quality, publicly funded education, defend collective bargaining rights, and advocate for conditions that enable students and education workers to thrive.

Through its national leadership, CTF/FCE addresses some of the most pressing issues facing public education, including class size and complexity, rising violence in schools, the increased use of the notwithstanding clause to override Charter-protected rights, and the ethical implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. CTF/FCE also monitors emerging trends through bi-annual cross Canada surveys, national research, and coordinated advocacy campaigns.

International solidarity remains a cornerstone of the CTF/FCE's work. As an affiliate of [Education International \(EI\)](#), CTF/FCE supports teacher unions worldwide when they face natural disasters, political instability, or legislative threats. A recent example includes contributions to EI's appeals for the Jamaica Teachers' Association following Hurricane Melissa. As part of this collective effort, OSSTF/FEESO contributed to the CTF/FCE's solidarity response.

This year, the CTF/FCE community also marked the retirement of Chris Goodsir, OSSTF/FEESO's long-serving representative on the CTF/FCE Board of Directors. His principled leadership, thoughtful analysis, and unwavering commitment to national unity have left a lasting legacy.

Reflecting on the role of the Federation Chris stated that, *"publicly funded education is the greatest tool for social mobility that we have in this country. We must defend it in every jurisdiction, and the CTF/FCE provides an essential national voice and common ground for all of us to do so."*

## Pension & Benefits Updates

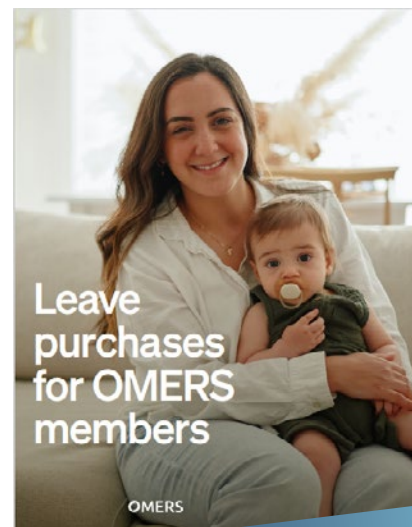
### OMERS—New Leave Purchase Options beginning January 2026


Helping members grow their future pension. When members take a leave—such as parental, family caregiver or organ donor leaves—their OMERS contributions stop. Purchasing some or all of a leave will help members maximize their pension income in retirement and may also allow them to retire earlier with an unreduced pension.

Beginning in January of 2026, members will:

- be able to purchase all or part of their leave with the option to start the process while still on leave.
- have up to two full calendar years after completing a leave to make a decision about purchasing it, and to pay for it in full (after two years, a buyback may be possible, but is generally much more expensive).
- will be able to pay by lump sum, payment plan, transfer from an RRSP, LIRA, or AVC account, or a combination of these options.
- be able to access a new online process through myOMERS to stay informed, save time, and automate payments.

Information will be available on the OMERS [website](#) in the new year, but until then, members are encouraged to access this [short digital guide](#) to learn more about the new online process.



Click here to access the full Digital Guide. 

## Collective Bargaining Updates

With the completion of the Central Bargaining Survey and the Central Local/Local Split Survey, OSSTF/FEESO continues to prepare for collective bargaining for those in the school board sector.

The Protective Services Division has worked hard to finalize drafts of the central negotiating briefs. The Collective Bargaining Advisory Work Groups also met to provide input in December. As per OSSTF/FEESO's Regulation 15.2, the brief approval process requires two special meetings of the Presidents and Chief Negotiators from the same bargaining unit of all affected Bargaining Units. Presidents and Chief Negotiators will meet in January and early February to review and complete the approval process. The February meeting will include in-person training with Presidents and Chief Negotiators, led by Point Blank and OSSTF/FEESO Organizers, to prepare local leaders to recruit, train, and support Site Reps as part of OSSTF/FEESO's member-engagement strategy heading into bargaining.

Continue to watch for updates on the bargaining process. Be sure you have an updated non-employer email with the membership database team to receive all bargaining information. If you have questions or need assistance updating your email address, please contact membership-database@osstf.ca.

Scan the QR code, then log in to myOSSTF to review and update your email address.



### Board Supervisions and EQAO

The Near North District School Board (NNSDB) has been placed under provincial supervision following a review that alleges administrative disfunction and misalignment with the needs of the community. Significant delays in opening a new JK–12 school in Parry Sound led to temporary remote learning and disrupted school environments. The review uncovered a deficit of senior leadership, fractious relations between trustees and administration, and improper conduct. Education Minister Paul Calandra, invoking newly expanded oversight powers under the Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025 (Bill 33), issued 15 binding directives to restore effective governance identified in the report. Due to persistent non-compliance, the board now operates under ministerial supervision, with a supervisor set to be formally appointed shortly.

In Toronto, provincially appointed supervisor Rohit Gupta, in collaboration with Minister Calandra, terminated Director of Education Clayton La Touche effective immediately, citing the need for a “fresh start” and renewed focus on student achievement. La Touche, who assumed the role in February 2025, has been replaced by Associate Director Stacey Zucker in an interim capacity.

Together, these government actions signal a broader provincial push toward centralized oversight, greater accountability in school board governance, and strategic review of student assessment practices.

Concurrently, province-wide EQAO results—historically released in September—were notably delayed this year. Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Calandra justified the postponement citing the need for deeper analysis and time to develop a robust support plan before public release. OSSTF/FEESO, other education affiliates and opposition MPPs, are arguing the delay undermines transparency and inhibits early course correction in schools. In response, the government has announced the formation of an expert advisory panel tasked with reviewing the province’s standardized testing framework. The panel’s mandate includes evaluating assessment alignment, curriculum clarity, and strategies to close persistent achievement gaps in math, reading, and writing. OSSTF/FEESO maintains that the government continues to detract from the real issue of underfunding the system.

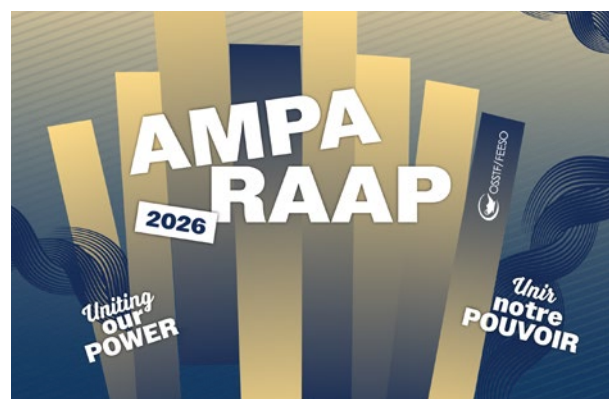
### Change to Education Act Regulation 521/01: Collection of Personal Information

Beginning in January 2026, employees of Boards will be subject to mandatory police record checks as a result of Ontario Regulation 298/25, filed by the provincial government on December 5, 2025, which significantly amends background check requirements for school boards.

The regulation introduces new terminology, timelines, expanded coverage, and stricter compliance obligations. School boards are required to collect police record checks for all employees, services providers, volunteers, and students on educational placements. The type of check required will depend on the individual’s role.

Members are encouraged to watch for further information from their employer regarding implementation and process and to refer to D/BU #083/2025–2026 for more information.

### AMPA 2026 is Coming!



[The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly \(AMPA\)](#) will take place March 13–16, 2026, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel (123 Queen St W). Registration is now open! If you’re interested in being a representative for your Bargaining Unit or District, please speak to your [local President](#).

For more details and updates, visit the [OSSTF/FEESO website](#).

## Professional Development and Resources



Click here to register.

### 2026 Educators Anti-Racism Conference

Registration is now open for Harmony Movement's 2026 Educators Anti-Racism Conference, taking place on February 6, 2026. This year's theme, *Building Bridges: Creating Identity-Affirming Schools and Classrooms*, focuses on practical strategies to foster inclusive, equitable, and affirming learning environments. OSSTF/FEESO is a proud sponsor of the conference.

- **Keynote:** Amira Elghawaby, Canada's Special Representative on Combating Islamophobia
- **Language:** English with live French translation.

#AntiRacism #EducationMatters #EquityInSchools

## Highlights

Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Officer Region 4 Training  
Friday, January 30 to Saturday, January 31, 2026

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

SAVE  
the DATE

## School Violence is Escalating: Ontario Needs Real Investments Now

OSSTF/FEESO and CUPE-OSBCU have issued a joint media release warning that violence in Ontario schools has reached crisis levels and calling on the provincial government to take immediate action. Drawing on survey data, sector-wide reports, and freedom of information findings, the release highlights a sharp rise in violent incidents affecting both students and education workers, driven by chronic understaffing and years of underfunding.

Members are encouraged to read the full media release, [School Violence is Escalating: Ontario Needs Real Investments in Frontline Education Workers Now](#) available on the provincial website.

## DBU Memos Issued in December

\*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 December here.](#)

<b>74</b>	Submission of Resolutions to AMPA 2026	<b>80</b>	It's Here! Your new OSSTF/FEESO Digital Membership Card
<b>75</b>	OSSTF/FEESO Member Awards	<b>81</b>	Ministry Correspondence—Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025 receives Royal Assent
<b>76</b>	CLC Second National Survey on Harassment and Violence at Work	<b>82</b>	Application for Educational Services Workshop Presenter Training
<b>77</b>	Training for Bargaining Unit Officers on Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression—Region 4	<b>83</b>	2025-2026 Change to Education Act Regulation 521/01: Collection of Personal Information
<b>78</b>	OSSTF/FEESO Research Grant for Emergent Issues and Priorities	<b>84</b>	Benevolent Council Application - Revised
<b>79</b>	Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) 2026 International Women's Day March 8 Project		

## Dates of Significance in January

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



**Jan. 19**—*Martin Luther King Day*

**Jan. 21**—*Lincoln Alexander Day*

**Jan. 24**—*International Day of Education*

**Jan. 27**—*International Holocaust Remembrance Day*

**Jan. 29**—*National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia*

Click here to access the graphics.

