

A Message from OSSTF/FEESO President Harvey Bischof

Founded in 1919, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation/La Fédération des enseignantes enseignants des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario (OSSTF/FEESO) represents more than 60,000 anglophone and francophone educational workers in more than 150 bargaining units across Ontario, including members who work in the university sector and with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

We are a strong, diverse union with the knowledge and power to advocate for the professional concerns of our members while protecting the rights of those members in their workplaces. All our expertise and resources are focused on helping educational workers achieve their goals, and on helping students succeed in strong, well-funded public education institutions. We have established excellent salaries, pensions, benefits and working conditions for our members, and we play a leading role in defending equitable access to high quality education in Canada and around the world.

Working in education requires a team. Membership in OSSTF/FEESO brings you the support and assistance of members in all sectors of the educational system. This extends from your co-workers in your workplace to those in your bargaining unit, in your district, and at Provincial Office.

I encourage you to become involved in the work of the union. Whatever your skill or interest, we have an area where you can contribute. Likewise, you have access to a broad range of services and resources such as collective bargaining, certification, professional growth, counselling, political action and pension information. These services are here for you to use. If you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact your bargaining unit or Provincial Office.

Our collective strength also allows us to look at broader social issues, and to work to improve the society in which we work and live. OSSTF/FEESO is involved in causes that are local, national and international in scope, and we make a difference because our members care about the world they live in and do not hesitate to get involved to help people.

OSSTF/FEESO supports charities such as Kids Help Phone, and is involved in producing various resources for our members to use in the classroom, such as the Common Threads Projects. The newest of these is called "The Sustainable Society", and explores different approaches to achieving and maintaining social justice, equity, fairness, and democracy in a resource-based economy.

In addition, OSSTF/FEESO provides leadership development and training, and presents workshops on various themes. Our Boundaries workshop, for example, teaches members how to establish and maintain appropriate parameters when working with students.

OSSTF/FEESO is also a member of the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress, and supports coalitions working in areas such as health, pay equity and

child care. These affiliations extend our influence and allow us to work within the labour movement to further develop and influence government policy on a wide variety of issues.

OSSTF/FEESO has a well-established social media presence on Twitter (@osstf) and Facebook (facebook.com/osstfnews), and we encourage members to follow and interact with us on those platforms.

From its inception in 1919, OSSTF/FEESO has built its strength on the basis of its motto:

"Let us not take thought for our separate interests, but let us help one another."

Educators and educational workers in Ontario have faced many challenges. OSSTF/FEESO members have always met those challenges and continue to do so. This has made OSSTF/FEESO one of the strongest and most respected education unions in Canada and beyond, and that is a tribute to the strength and dedication of our membership at the grassroots level.

I hope that you value your membership in OSSTF/FEESO and experience success in your career in education.

In solidarity,
Harvey Bischof, President



New Member Information