

Welcome Back Colleagues!

Happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed a peaceful break and that your return to school has been welcoming and productive. We have no doubt that the students were happy to see you and that the parents were happy too! Both Jane and I would like to take this time to wish you all the best for the upcoming year!

Important Local Bargaining Update!

Your Local Collective Bargaining Team has a Preliminary Submission prepared to present to you for your approval. You must be present at the meeting in order to vote. Please plan to attend this important meeting next Thursday, January 16th, 4:30 pm at the Ramada Inn.

Preliminary Submission Ratification Meeting

Your Local Collective Bargaining Team has been busy! We have a tentative Preliminary Submission to present to you for your approval on Thursday, January 16th, 2020, 4:30 pm.

Important

What: Preliminary Submission Ratification Meeting
When: Thursday, January 16th, 2020, 4:30 pm
Where: Ramada Inn, Kingston

Inclement Weather? Coming soon near you, unfortunately!

Article L18.4.0 of your Collective Agreement states: In the event of extremely severe weather, (e.g. cancellation of bus transportation) or if a public road is not plowed for the day, the Teacher, **after consultation with his/her administrator**, may be directed to report to an alternate site, or report to the nearest elementary school, or report late to his/her school when road conditions permit. There shall be no loss of pay for the Teacher. Such leave is not deducted from accumulated sick leave and shall not unreasonably be denied.

Central Bargaining Update

ETFO met with OPSBA, the government and the Mediator Denise Small on Monday, December 16th to negotiate Teacher/Occasional Teacher Central Table issues. Unfortunately, there is no progress to report. It became clear that the government's bargaining team:

- **does not have the authority** to negotiate any additional funding to deal with classroom violence;
- **does not have the authority** to entertain discussions about Kindergarten, Junior or Intermediate class size changes;
- **has not accepted ETFO's proposal** that funding needs to be renewed for special education and specialist teaching positions to support early years special needs, Indigenous students, "at risk" students and English Language Learners;
- **does not have the authority** to negotiate professional time for ETFO's DECE, ESP and PSP members;
- **has not advanced a proposal** to renew Professional Development/Learning funds for ETFO's DECE ESP and PSP members; and
- **does not have the authority** to negotiate a cost of living increase to compensation.

In addition, the government's bargaining team:

- **continues to demand** that ETFO teacher and occasional teacher members agree to up to \$150 million in reductions to public elementary education spending;
- **continues to demand** that ETFO remove any language in local collective agreements that puts limits on elementary class sizes;
- **has not accepted ETFO's proposal** that the current Kindergarten model be maintained; and
- **continues to propose** the elimination of fair and transparent hiring practices for occasional teachers.

We are waiting to hear if new dates have been scheduled and we will keep you informed.

Constitution Time!

Our Local's annual constitution review is quickly approaching and Stephane Charron, our 2nd VP, is seeking members who would like to contribute to this process. If you are interested in learning about our constitution and participating in this review, please contact our Local's 2nd VP Stephane Charron charron.stephane@gmail.com Members selected will be contacted with meeting times and dates.

Did you know? Planning to build a backyard ice rink?

Skate smoothly with these safety tips. Building a backyard rink can provide hours of winter fun for you, your family and friends. Whether you're teaching your son to skate, lacing up for some after-work exercise or teaching your daughter how to perfect her slapshot, a backyard ice rink will help you make the most of the winter months. But building a winter rink also comes with the responsibility of maintaining it and watching out for safety hazards. Here are a few tips to keep your family and friends safe on the ice. For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article56.



Limestone has a Voice!

Check out the Winter edition of ETFO Voice featuring our very own Jerri Jerreat. She is a Changemaker!!!



A Wonderful Opportunity for You and Your Family!

The ETFO Limestone Local is pleased to present [DOLITTLE](#), a subsidized morning at the movies on Saturday, Feb. 8th, at a cost of just 4\$ per person. Please fill the [The ETFO 4\\$ February Family Film form](#) to reserve your tickets. Please arrive no later than 9:30 am at Landmark Cinema Kingston. The film will begin at 10 am sharp. You may reserve a maximum of 2 adult tickets and 4 children's tickets. Upon arrival you will check in with our ETFO reps and pay the amount due prior to entering the theatre. Bring the family out to meet your colleagues for a fun morning at the movies!

ETFO Awards and Bursaries

The ETFO Awards Program recognizes distinguished academic achievements and outstanding contributions to education and the Federation by its members and others. Some awards have a financial incentive. The deadline for awards nominations is February 1st of each year and award categories are posted by October of each year.

ETFO's Scholarships and Bursaries Program offers financial incentives to members and non-members entering faculties of education, members studying at the graduate level and members upgrading their qualifications at publicly funded universities/institutions. You can help identify and recognize those achievements by nominating colleagues for the prestigious ETFO Scholarships and Bursaries. The deadline for scholarship and bursary applications is April 30th of each year and are posted by January of each year.

For information or inquiries please contact Sonia Ellis-Seguín at sellissequin@etfo.org or Susy Costa at scosta@etfo.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 16th, 2020: 4:30 pm
Preliminary Submission Ratification, Ramada Inn

February 7th, 2020: **ETFO TGIF**
East Side Marios, Gardiners Rd, Kingston

February 8th, 2020: 9:30 am **Dolittle Movie Event**
Landmark Cinema, Kingston

February 21-22, 2020: **Women's Retreat**
Glen House Resort, Gananoque

April 8th, 2020: 4:30 pm
ETFO Limestone Local Annual Meeting

May 1st, 2020: 3:30-6:30, **ETFO TGIF**,
Union Cocktail Bar

June 20th, 2019, 5:30:
ETFO Limestone Local Retirement Dinner

June 18th, 2020, 5:30:
ETFO Limestone Local Retirement Dinner

