



# From the President

December, 2016

Shawn Martin, GEETF President – [smartin@geetf.ca](mailto:smartin@geetf.ca)



## Political Action/Public Relations

The annual Labour Cares was yet again a great success this year. The GEETF, along with other unions, community groups, and local businesses, provided much needed food assistance to those in need. News of the event was included in local newspapers and on radio. Thank you to everyone who came out and volunteered their time to make this event a success.

Following presentations made by GEETF members to our school councils, the first *Building Better Schools Newsletter* for parents who signed on was sent out in November. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter please contact Cory Judson at the GEETF office.

## Brand New GEETF Committees

Preparations are under way to establish three new committees: a Social, an Arts and an FSL Committee. You are welcome to join a committee. We hope to see you at upcoming events.

## Who Does What in the GEETF Office

The roles and duties of each of your Local released officers is outlined in the GEETF Constitution. Below is an outline:

### President – Shawn Martin

- Professional Relations Services (TPA, OCT, professional relationships between contract teachers and other teachers and Board staff)
- Health & Safety issues
- Elementary Program/Report Cards
- Any other issue that may arise

### First Vice President (formerly the Collective Agreement Officer) – Nancy D'Aurora ([cao@geetf.ca](mailto:cao@geetf.ca))

- Long Term Disability
- Leaves of any kind
- Pregnancy/Parental issues
- Grievances
- All items related to the Collective Agreement
- Contract teacher staffing issues
- Workplace Accommodation/Return to Work placements

### Second Vice President – Cory Judson ([cjudson@geetf.ca](mailto:cjudson@geetf.ca))

- Supporting GEETF committees
- Political Action/Public Relations
- Retirement/Member Support
- Community Engagement

## CAS/Police

If you are contacted by the CAS or the police, or have been made aware that an allegation has been made against you, do not say anything until you have contacted Professional Relations Services (PRS). When confronted with such painful news, it's essential to know that you do not have to answer any questions right away and you will be given support from your Federation.

- Do not participate in or consent to an interview.
- Make no statement to anyone regarding the allegation/charges.
- Say, **"I am willing to cooperate but I am unable to comment until I contact the Federation and legal counsel."**
- Call ETFO PRS staff at 1 888 838-3836 or 416 962-3836

## Remembrance Day

Shawn, Nancy, and Cory attended Remembrance Day Ceremonies on behalf of the GEETF. Wreaths were presented at ceremonies in Brantford, Paris, and Simcoe. Next year we plan on attending ceremonies in some of the other communities in Norfolk, Haldimand and Brant.

## 2017 Sticker for Your ETFO Card

In the upcoming December issue of Voice magazine, you will find your 2017 Edvantage validation sticker. If you receive the magazine electronically or for some reason don't get a sticker in December, please ask your union steward for one when you return to work in January.

## From your Social Justice Committee

The Canadian Teachers Federation website offers "Professional Knowledge on Key Issues in Education". Have a look at:

<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/Pages/Issues/Poverty.aspx>



The CTF Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights produced a teacher-friendly booklet on ways to teach about the issue of poverty. This booklet is intended for grades 5-8. More information and a free online copy is available at:

<http://www.imagine-action.ca/Initiatives.aspx?c=10>

Printed copies are available for \$3 each.

## School Visits

Between November and January the released officers are making school visits. Your school will be visited by one of the released officers. We look forward to meeting you, providing you with up-to-date information and hearing your concerns.

## GEETF Website Upgrades

We have made improvements to the GEETF website. If you click on the calendar tab you will see the events for the month. If you click on an event, its flyer and the online registration will open.