



From the President

December 2017

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Grand Erie Status of Women Committee Basketeers Program



Kendra Kovac and Tammy Lam presenting baskets and a cheque for \$500 to Nova Vita

Once again the Status of Women Committee organized a successful Basketeers Program in support of Nova Vita. Because of the generous donations of our membership, 22 full baskets of essentials were given to help women and their children in need. Thank you to all who contributed to this very worthy cause.

ETFO Membership Card 2018 Validation Sticker

The 2018 ETFO validation sticker will be mailed to members' homes in the winter edition of VOICE magazine. If you receive the online version of VOICE, you can get a sticker from your school steward in January. The GEETF office can also provide you with a 2018 sticker if you somehow get missed.

Ontario College of Teachers Votes NO to a Proposed Fee Increase

Thanks to the efforts of members making their objections clear, and the lobbying efforts of ETFO, the OCT proposal to increase membership fees by 20% did not happen. The OCT Governing Council was to consider the recommended fee increase at their December 7th meeting. Sam Hammond, ETFO President stated, "Members should not be footing the bill for expensive public relations campaigns, a mortgage on a property located in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country, professional learning that is not part of its legislated mandate and sponsorship of displays at events that have little to do with its governance function."

Renewed Math Strategy Survey

The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing the Renewed Math Strategy (RMS). ETFO is part of the RMS workgroup which is assisting with the review. The workgroup feels it is critical to gather data from frontline educators. This will assist the Ministry in making modifications to the Strategy in years two and three. The survey is anonymous and should take around 15 minutes to complete. It's open until December 31st. The link to the survey is

https://idb.qfimir.com/RMS_Survey

Highlights of Recent Changes to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

On January 1, 2018, the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and the Ontario Government, as joint sponsors of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, are using some of the \$11.5 billion funding surplus reported in March to restore inflation increases and decrease contribution rates.

- The contribution rate for the Plan's active members will be reduced by 1.1% (please see table below).
- Full inflation protection will be restored for those who retired after 2009. Retired members will also receive a one-time increase to restore their pensions to the level that they would have been had full inflation protection been in place every year since the member retired.

As with all pension-related questions, please contact the OTPP when making personal pension decisions. The OTPP website is

<https://www.otpp.com/>

Take a look at the chart below to see how the contribution rate decrease will affect teachers at different salary levels.

ANNUAL SALARY	ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS*		
	Current	2018	Decrease
\$50,000	\$5,750	\$5,200	\$550
\$60,000	\$6,975	\$6,315	\$660
\$70,000	\$8,285	\$7,515	\$770
\$80,000	\$9,595	\$8,715	\$880
\$90,000	\$10,905	\$9,915	\$990
\$100,000	\$12,215	\$11,115	\$1,100

*Numbers calculated used the 2017 CPP limit of \$33,200

Canadian Education Exchange Foundation



If you've ever considered teaching overseas for a year, applications are now being accepted by the CEEF. Successful applicants exchange teaching positions and residences for a school year. Many countries participate in the exchange. More detailed information and applications are available at <https://www.ceef.ca/>

Update on Unfilled OT Assignments

The issue of unfilled occasional teaching assignments or "fail to fills" has become an increasing concern across Ontario. As a result, the Provincial Executive struck a focus group of teacher and occasional teacher local leaders to review the issue of fail to fills. The GEETF and Occasional Teachers' Presidents will be meeting again with the Board in January to review stats, the effectiveness of actions taken, and to discuss possible next steps.

Upcoming Events

Dec 23 – Jan 7 Christmas Break (GEETF Office Closed)

Jan 15 – *Social Justice Begins with Me* after school workshop (dinner included)

Feb 5 – PD: *Planning in Science & Social Studies*

Feb 8 – FSL Resource Sharing Event

I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR. ENJOY A VERY WELL DESERVED VACATION!

