



# From the President

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## GEETF Annual Meeting and Elections

On May 16<sup>th</sup> the GEETF Annual Meeting and Elections took place. The following members were elected to the 2018-2020 Executive:

**PRESIDENT** – Shawn Martin

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** – Nancy D'Aurora

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** – Cory Judson

**SECRETARY** – Lori Burroughs Miller (Lakewood)

**HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER** – Jennifer Orr (Seneca Central)

### TABLE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

Connie Hill (Ryerson Heights)

Michaela Kargus (Russel Reid)

Kendra Kovach (Woodman-Cainsville)

Caroll Ann Macsai (Port Rowan)

Jennifer McColl (Lansdowne-Costain)

Geraldine Power (Brier Park)

Carolyn Proulx-Wootton (Oneida Central)

Sabrina Sawyer (JBLC)

Congratulations on the election of our 2018-2020 Executive. Your newly-elected Executive will have several issues to face during their term, including a new Ontario government and a return to bargaining.

## Appeal to Social Media Activists

You can help support ETFO's Building Better Schools plan for education during the provincial election by promoting the eight policy "building blocks" of the plan. Check out the plan and the eight social media shareables on the [Election Page](#) of ETFO's website.

ETFO is releasing one shareable per week of the election campaign. You can use any of the released shareables in your social media communications.



## ETFO Provincial Election Lawn Sign

The GEETF office has received many ETFO produced lawn signs for members to place in front of their homes. Union Stewards will be getting information on topics to discuss with you at an in-school union meeting to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in obtaining a lawn sign, you may stop by the GEETF office and pick one up or arrangements can be made to get one to you. The sign looks like this:



## ETFO & the GEETF Endorse the NDP

Because the NDP has presented a progressive platform that commits to significant investment in public services and important new programs, the ETFO Executive has adopted a position in support of the NDP.

Many of the NDP's education policies align with ETFO's Building Better Schools plan. The NDP has pledged to put an end to EQAO and conduct an independent review of the education funding formula. They have also committed to reducing Kindergarten class sizes and stopping SK/1 split classes.

The GEETF Executive passed a motion to endorse Alex Felsky, NDP, as the candidate for Brant and Danielle Du Sablon, NDP, for Haldimand-Norfolk.

## Haldimand-Norfolk Pride



On May 26<sup>th</sup> the GEETF took part in the second annual Haldimand-Norfolk Pride event in Dunnville. Above are Nancy D'Aurora, George Overend, Shawn Martin and Cory Judson. Please join us or stop by the GEETF table at Brantford Pride on June 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Maintaining Professional Relations

As we deal with challenging situations in our work, maintaining professionalism is key to avoiding complications and undesirable consequences. A few points I'd like to share with you are:

1] Try to deal with issues when they appear. Waiting too long to address an issue can cause stress and add to the problem.

2] Keep a healthy perspective. Teaching is a demanding career. For most of us it's a calling. But we need to remember that it is also a job. We will not always like situations we encounter.

3] When in doubt, check your facts. Know your rights and your obligations.

Your Local is here to assist you, offer advice, and answer any questions you may have. Support is only a call or email away.

## ETFO Celebrates 20 Years

On July 1, 1998 ETFO was created out of the amalgamation of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario (FWTAO) and the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation (OPSTF). In 1998, Ontario teachers were under attack by the provincial government of Mike Harris. members decided that it was time to come together in solidarity and retire two proud, dynamic federations.

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

- JUNE 7** Ontario Provincial Election
- JUNE 8** Assessment & Reporting PD Day
- JUNE 16** Brantford Pride in the Park
- JUNE 20** Sharing Our Voices (Sanderson Centre)
- JUNE 21** GEETF Celebration Dinner