

OUR SCHOOLS  
OUR FUTURE  
OUR STORY



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# CONNECTIONS

District 29 OSSTF Hastings-Prince Edward

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[www.d29.osstf.ca](http://www.d29.osstf.ca)



Every February, OSSTF/FEESO celebrates Black History Month, which serves as an important opportunity to reflect on how we, as a Federation and as individuals, can continue to challenge and dismantle anti-Black racism in our schools, workplaces, and communities.

Visit the OSSTF provincial site for many great resources and related links:

<https://www.osstf.on.ca/news/black-history-month-2024.aspx>

## VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING: Tentative Agreement

D29 will be hosting an Information Meeting to go over the Tentative Agreement that was reached with the board, there will be an opportunity to ask questions after the agreement is presented.

### Virtual Meeting:

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 9:00 pm,**  
(Zoom link has been sent to members non-board emails.)

### Voting:

**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> (at each worksite.)**





On January 25 2024, at a Special Meeting of the voting members of T/OT council, Andrew Wachner was elected an interim president to replace Scott Marshall, who is on leave.

Welcome to our interim president, Andrew Wachner! Andrew has been teaching for 24 years, with his entire career at Centennial Secondary School. He teaches Math and Science, with Physics being his passion. One of his fondest memories is leading the CSS Robotics team.

Andrew has been involved with our union for many years, with roles as Lead negotiator, Chair of CBC, Branch President, SAC rep, and delegate to AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly). He brings a wealth of knowledge and an analytical mindset which will assist him in the transition to the role.

In his spare time, Andrew enjoys skiing, golfing, and ping pong (after his forced retirement from tennis).

When asked what is one thing you would like to accomplish while in the President role, he replied, “Increase the level of engagement with new teachers.” Plans are afoot for a new member social at the end of March, which hopefully will lead to a new member social committee with monthly activities. He is looking forward to visiting work sites and meeting all of our new members. He encourages everyone to reach out with any questions or concerns.

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OSSTF’s Education Forum, a magazine dedicated to highlighting the emerging issues facing public education and education workers. Articles are written by members, for members.

It is fitting that this year’s focus is Privatization, arguably the most serious issue affecting public education in our time. Topics range from the successful organizing efforts of the Chicago Teachers’ Union and public education and privatization in Australia, to the privatization rhetoric surrounding charter schools and the six forms for privatization, with lessons to be learned from examining the dismantling of long term care.

The anniversary edition is handsomely journal bound, and includes images of all the previous covers dating back to 1975. Whether you read it online through the link provided, or check out one of the print copies sent to Federation house, this is a terrific resource for members in understanding the dangers posed by privatization to public education as we know it.

<http://education-forum.ca/>



## T/OT Technology Enhancement Program (TEP)

**Eligible purchases are those made between  
July 1, 2023 up to April 30, 2024.**

Priority consideration will again be given to first time applicants and repeat applicants who have not applied in the last 3 years. Final funding will depend upon the total number of claims received and the amount requested from the \$33,000 fund. (If total funding requests from the approved applications exceeds the \$33,000 available, all funding will be reduced).

**NEW!** Teachers may request a maximum of \$750. (Examples: \$400 purchase is eligible for a \$400 rebate, \$850 purchase is eligible for a \$750 rebate).

Attach your electronic receipt(s) or a clear photo/scan of receipt(s) right in your application in order to qualify.

Approved rebates will be sent out after this year’s program closes  
(After May 1, 2024 & Before June 30, 2024)



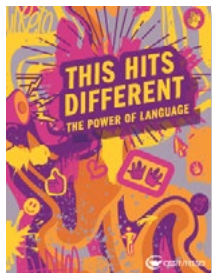


# Provincial D29 WINNER

Category B-2: Visual, Senior, 11-12

**Emma Little** "From Letter to Likes"

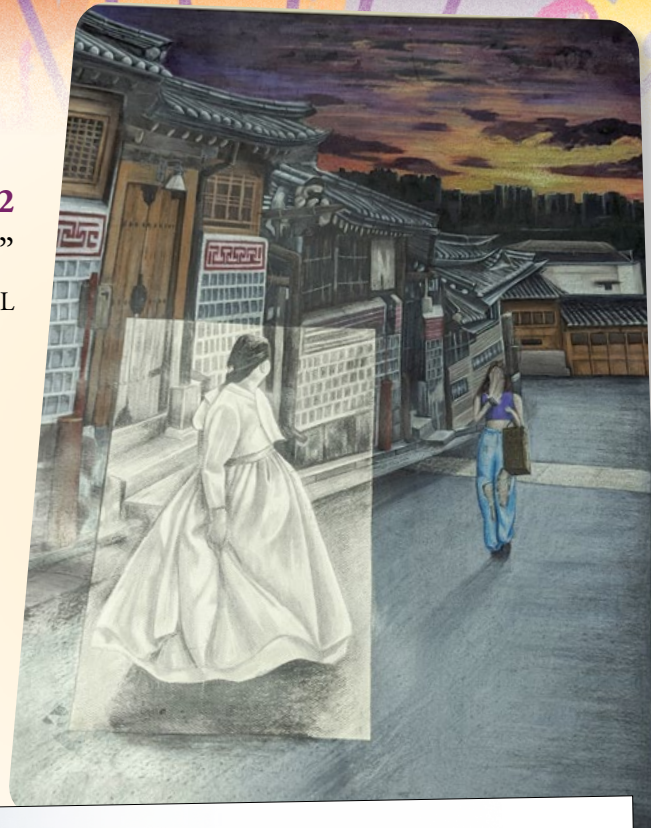
CENTENNIAL SECONDARY SCHOOL



## THIS HITS DIFFERENT THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

The Student Achievement Awards is a writing and creative arts competition, which is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario. The competition is meant to encourage the intellectual development of our students and an interest in society. Eight provincial winners will be awarded

\$1000 each in prizes and will be invited to our Annual General Meeting in March, where a video showcasing their work will be screened.



## Part 1 Sick Leave

Every full-time contract employee is entitled to 11 days at 100% pay. Days are renewable every year.

A partial sick leave day will be deducted for absences due to illness for a partial day. Medical appointments are considered a part of sick leave. Deducted in thirds.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of absence, consecutive or nonconsecutive, a member may access up to 120 Short-Term Disability Leave days. The member doesn't have to do anything to access these days, but pay could drop to 90% of salary.

Eligible members receive top-up to 100% based on their previous year's sick leave. Each unused sick leave day represents 10 days of top up — carried over to the next year only (no banking), and up to 2 days of compassionate top-up may be considered by the board.

Part-time employees or employees filling a long-term assignment will have sick leave and STLDP pro-rated as compared to 194 working days.

The Board shall follow established policies and practices when establishing the existence of illness and injury. No medical documentation is required for an absence of five days or fewer.

The Board uses a Functional Abilities Form in documenting sick leave. A doctor's note will be accepted for an initial absence beyond 5 days, but an extension of that absence will require a form.

In the case of extended absence, employees who were absent on the last working day of the previous year, and who are absent on the 1<sup>st</sup> working day due to the same illness, may use any sick leave days remaining from the previous year, but will not be granted any for the current year.

Employees absent due to illness on the first day who were not absent due to the same illness on the last day of the previous year can access the current year's sick leave days.

Employees must attend 11 consecutive days to trigger renewal, if absent on the last day of the previous school year.

## T/OT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

Benefits in the Collective Agreement

(Central Agreement C9 pp A11-A14; Local Agreement Article L14 pp B15-B16)



## Six components that every education member should add to their financial plan



There are many building blocks to a successful financial plan, and it can be hard to create — and stick to — each block.

For many, the choice between stocks and bonds and the arrangement of pensions and taxes can be daunting. Personalized and professional financial advice can help you manage your unique needs and challenges to create a workable strategy.

### LIMITED TIME OFFER

**Get a customized Financial Plan built around your unique financial situation**

Book a complimentary consultation today to speak to a financial advisor who will assess your current situation and create a tailored financial plan for you. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/42jhMmM>.

With the RRSP deadline around the corner, and tax deadline quickly approaching, here are key things you should know about financial planning and taxes: <https://bit.ly/3SdKWPr>.

*Brought to you by Educators Financial Group. Trusted by over 16,000 education members and their families to meet their financial goals. Book your complimentary consultation today: <https://bit.ly/3SeMQ2c>.*

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OSSTF D29 Hastings-Prince Edward

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