

CONNECTIONS

The collage consists of nine photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion, showing various groups of teachers participating in a strike. The teachers are dressed in winter attire, including coats, hats, and scarves. They are holding a variety of protest signs. Some signs are white with black text, while others are red or blue. The signs express their demands for better funding, no cuts to education, and a fair deal for teachers and students. The background of the photos shows snowy outdoor settings, likely in front of schools or public spaces in Prince Edward Island.

OSSTF DISTRICT 29 MEMBERS FIGHT BACK AGAINST CUTS TO EDUCATION

Members of OSSTF District 29 have shown great strength and great resolve as we fight back against the Ford government cuts to education. We must not forget that our two MPP's, Todd Smith and Daryl Kramp, continue to support the government cuts and have been sharing the public misinformation being directed by education minister Stephen Lecce. Members ask, "are we making a difference?", and the answer is a definite "yes". The fight to protect our schools is an enormous challenge, and progress will seem slow. The Ford government simply does not value quality public education. A high quality public education system is worth fighting for.

Scott Marshall

Lecce Isn't Listening



Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce

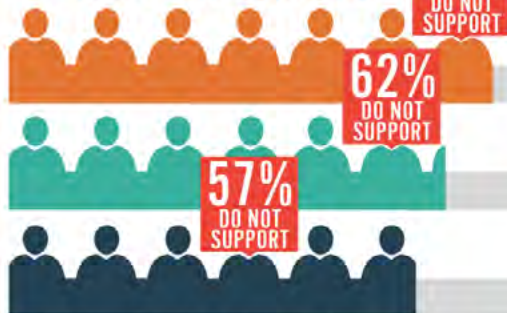
"The message for parents is the government stands with them..."

January 19, 2020 NewsTalk 1010

FACT

ONTARIANS

**DO NOT SUPPORT
FORD'S EDUCATION AGENDA**



Percentage of participants who identified that they do not support the PC government's planned increase in class size and/or believe the PC government is on the wrong track when it comes to public education.



The question is why.

Ontario's public education system ranks among the best in the world.

Ontario's economy is booming.

Why is the provincial government making cuts to public education?



The Doug Ford Government has pushed The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) into a Legal Strike Position

Why hasn't OSSTF/FEESO modified its position?

We are standing up for publicly-funded education.

In 2019, the Ford government increased average class size to 22.5 resulting in:

- fewer courses available to students
- limited pathway opportunities
- fewer teachers and education workers in schools

In 2020, Ford and Lecce plan to:

- increase average class size to 28 (although they have offered 25)
- make 2 e-Learning courses mandatory with average class sizes of 35

These changes will mean that students will have:

- EVEN fewer courses
- EVEN less funding for resources and supports
- EVEN fewer teachers/education workers

OSSTF/FEESO believes that these changes damage publicly-funded education and hurt students.

We stand by our position:

- return to 2018-2019 class size averages of 22
- keep e-Learning voluntary for students
- ensure appropriate number of teachers and education workers to meet student needs

Please contact your MPP and Trustees



See all the proposals at

BargainingForEducation.ca

Lend your support and email your MPP at

HereForStudents.ca





AMPA

OSSTF/FEESO conducts an Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) with representatives from all its bargaining units. The Provincial Assembly is the supreme legislative body of OSSTF/FEESO and is responsible for establishing or amending Federation policies, bylaws, constitutions, budgets, the annual Action Plan and for the election of the Provincial Executive and OTF Governors.

The following are the members, elected at the December 2019 meeting of the District Council, to represent D29 at AMPA March 13 -16, 2020: Jason Bremner, Michelle Dalrymple, Kendra Kilpatrick, Eleanor MacNiven Hoeht, Scott Marshall, Keith Sled, and Andrew Wachner.

Provincial Committees and Councils

Applications are now open to all members of OSSTF/FEESO for appointments to provincial standing committees and councils. Any member in good standing can apply for one of the many provincial committees and councils for term and cooption positions. The application is online and can be accessed through <https://www.osstf.on.ca/news/mn-jan-10-2020.aspx> and the deadline for on-time applications is March 1st.

Tidbits from the Collective Agreement

JSC: Joint Staffing Committee. A group of 8 people (4 from the HPEDSB, 4 from OSSTF D29) who meet frequently throughout the year to discuss and make decisions regarding staffing.

Re-assignment: Contract Teachers are not hired by schools, but rather by HPEDSB as Secondary School Teachers. While mobility is to be used first to address program and staffing needs, HPEDSB retains the right to use a process of reassignment (this is also called 'administrative transfer').

Surplus: a Teacher can be surplus to the District and/or surplus to a school. If a Teacher is surplus to the District, the Teacher will be notified in early May. If a Teacher is surplus to a school, that Teacher is then available for transfer.

Transfer: a Teacher is available for transfer when there is no longer a position for them at their current school – this is decided by looking at the District staffing formula and the District program needs.

Recall: is the list of Teachers who have been declared surplus who have not been placed in Teaching jobs. Members retain right to recall for 6 years.

LTD: Long Term Disability is a type of insurance that all contractual Teachers pay into. There is a 110-day waiting period – which means you are not eligible to receive LTD payments until you have been off work for 110 working days. There is an application process. It is administered by OTIP (Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan) and they work closely with the District Office in all cases.

RTW: Return to Work. Following a short-term medical absence and, always, following a Long Term Disability claim, a return to work plan will be followed, created by OTIP's rehabilitation consultant in conjunction with the Teacher's medical practitioners, the Teacher and the District Office. These plans are gradual in nature and are highly confidential to the parties involved.

LTO: Long Term Occasional assignment. When there is a known start and end date to a Teacher's absence, and the time between the two is greater than 30 days, the assignment must be posted as an LTO. Medical absences and LTD absences often do not fall within these parameters.



FREE FOR MEMBERS!
APRIL 25th, 2020

WellnessDay

Swimming, Skating, and Open Gym

at the
QUINTE
 SPORTS & WELLNESS CENTRE
 265 CANNIFTON RD,
 BELLEVILLE

GYM: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
SKATING: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
POOL: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Participate in One Activity or All Three!

Family Passes will be available upon request from your Branch President in April

Brought to you by: ETFO-HP, HAPE-OTL, and OSSTF D29

10 Snowmobile Safety Tips

TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE HITTING THE TRAILS THIS WINTER



Now that winter is here in full force, many Canadians are looking forward to hitting the snowmobile trails and gliding over kilometre after kilometre of fresh snow. Depending on where you live, snowmobiling may be more than a recreational activity. In some rural locations, snowmobiles also serve as a valuable mode of transportation. Whether you snowmobile for fun, or to get from one point to another, there are essential safety considerations to keep in mind before heading out.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article58



Get educated on the two types of lines of credit: secured and unsecured.

An unsecured LOC is great for consolidating high-interest loans.

With no fees to set up and a maximum borrowing amount of \$50,000, the unsecured option is ideal for lower-priced needs and those looking to consolidate multiple high-interest credit cards/loans into one, low-interest option.

Need a greater amount of credit? Consider a Secured/Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC).

A secured LOC (*backed by the equity in your house*) lowers the risk to the lender so you get a lower interest rate, lower monthly payments, and a significantly higher limit. In fact, if you plan to use a significant amount of credit, you can save hundreds of dollars a year with a secured LOC.

The chart below sums up the differences between the unsecured and secured LOCs available through Educators:

	Unsecured	Secured
Benefits	Get access to credit, when you need it	Lower interest rate on credit
	Ongoing access to funds for everyday purchases	Ongoing access to funds for larger purchases, debt consolidation, and home renovation
Security required	No	Yes
Lending range	Maximum \$50,000	The highest credit limit available to you (up to 80% of the value of your home)
Rate	Variable, higher than a secured line of credit	Variable, lower than an unsecured line of credit
Term	Open	Open

Whether you're looking for comprehensive credit advice, competitive rates, or a combination of both, we've got you covered. An Educators lending specialist will have the answers to all your borrowing questions, and can help you decide the best way for you to get the money you need.

To speak to a financial specialist call us at
1.800.263.9541 or go to:

<https://educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/get-started>

Educators Financial Group has some of the **lowest rates on LOCs** around, and they're only available to Ontario education members and their families. Visit: educatorsfinancialgroup.ca/LOC to see rates.



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