

OPSEU Local 2100 News & Views



Presidents Message

"Time moves slowly, but passes quickly." — Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

Now that we are in the middle of March and the season is changing, and Spring is upon us, we can reflect on what a busy year we have had so far. We have endured the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic and are hoping to see the end of restrictions and back to some normalcy that we have all been missing. We have been through a difficult 2 years and we don't know what the next few months of school has in store of us, but we have adjusted to the changes and I have no doubt we will continue to do so.

If there is one thing I've learned over the last year, it is that you have dedicated yourselves to your students, no matter what that entails. Many of you have been working in person throughout the pandemic, even when schools were reported as closed. You are the frontline heroes/*sheroes*!

I hope you are all able to take some time over the next week to focus on some self-care, spend time with family and friends, and do what you love, so you can come back feeling relaxed and refreshed.

Enjoy your March Break!

"It is not what is poured into the student, but what is planted, that counts." E.P. Bertin

BARGAINING UPDATE:

With the Collective Agreement expiring Aug 2022, the Union is starting to collaborate to determine the needs for bargaining. Melody Hurtubise and April Bello attended the School Boards Bargaining Conference in February with other delegates to discuss the items for the Central Bargaining Table. There has been a list of items that have been provided as priorities to bring to central bargaining. We will be meeting again on March 30th to finalize the Demand Set that the committee will then be negotiating on. Stay tuned for more information.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM):

We have scheduled a GMM on March 23 to provide an update on the Central Bargaining items that we would like to prioritize and take back to the Central Bargaining Team. Please join us at 4:30pm to determine the order of significance of these items. An email with registration link has been sent out. Another GMM will be held in April to discuss our Local Bargaining items and elect a Bargaining Committee.

TWITTER:

We have made a slight change to our Twitter account. It is now the Official Twitter account for OPSEU 2100. Updates and important information will be shared here. Follow us at [@OPSEU2100](https://twitter.com/OPSEU2100)

HEALTH & SAFETY:

The Peel District School Board, on the advice of the Provincial officials will be removing all Covid restrictions as of March 21, 2022. Anyone that wishes to continue wearing masks will have them provided. Any members that have been required to complete Rapid testing, will no longer be required to do so. If you have any questions or concerns about the changes, please contact Human Resources.

We have been hearing from many members that they require safety PPE (arm guards, jackets, etc.). Many of our students are dysregulated and are having difficulty coping at school. This has increased the need for staff to protect themselves. If you are experiencing increased risks, please let your admin know and request PPE. If you are still having trouble obtaining it, contact Melody Hurtubise at president@opseu2100.ca or Natacha Verdiel at secondvp@opseu2100.ca. It is also important to complete Workplace Incident Reports via the OPSEU Local 2100 chicklet on the Board website. The information submitted is used for tracking purposes and the Union can access it for data as well. If you have any questions regarding Workplace Incident Reports, please contact Natacha Verdiel at secondvp@opseu2100.ca.

REGIONAL MEETING & CONVENTION:

The Region 2 meeting will be held on March 19, 2022 for all elected Delegates throughout the Region. These meetings are important for conducting business for OPSEU and electing regional Executive Board Members who then represent all members and locals in the area. We have a group of 9 delegates attending this meeting and will share information with members after the meeting and convention.

OPSEU Convention 2022 is being held in Toronto from April 6 to 9, 2022. This is where the Budget is presented and other union business is conducted. This also includes electing the Executive Board Members that oversee all of OPSEU. As you are aware, Warren "Smokey" Thomas is retiring and there will be a new President elected. This is an important time for OPSEU, especially with Education contracts expiring across the province. We will also have 9 delegates attending Convention and voting to uphold the rights of our Members and to fight for change on our behalf.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL)

All PDSB educators received the Online CPI training link on September 6th, 2021. Please note that this training generated a Certificate of Completion and is not considered or seen as Blue card training. In order to receive a Blue card training certificate you would also have to attend an in-person training with a certified CPI instructor.

Educational Assistants interested in completing their Blue Card training will also need to participate in an in-person training which usually only takes place on PL days; and, with some exceptions, at some individual sites with a high number of safety needs and concerns. Due to Covid guidelines, in-person training has been limited this year, but the goal is to have it continue for the June 6th PL day.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Karen Del Ben at karen.delben@peelsb.com.

OPSEU EMAILS:

We are receiving a lot of feedback from members regarding the increasing amount of emails being sent from OPSEU. Please note that **OPSEU/SEPFO Regional emails** display as "OPSEU/SEFPO" as the sender. For any questions regarding your OPSEU Regional username or password, please email OPSEUCommunications@opseu.org. **Local 2100 emails** display as "OSPEU Local 2100" as the sender. For any questions regarding your Local 2100 username or password, please email Paulina Medeiros at secretary-tresurer@opseu2100.ca

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

Just a reminder that Service Canada no longer issues the 16-digit reference code. If you are currently on a medical leave, please note that you must apply for sick benefits and complete an EI medical certificate. Please contact Service Canada for any employment insurance related inquiries. Service Canada can be contacted at 1-800-206-7218, or by visiting their website at [Service Canada - Canada.ca](https://www.servicecanada.ca)

EDVANTAGE:

Edvantage offers great rewards and discounts to Edvantage members and their families through partnerships with retailers and businesses. OTIP administers Edvantage on behalf of your group/association. With exclusive partners, Edvantage offers great discounts, special offers and contests from the brands you love.

Please note that ALL Edvantage members must register for a new account before logging into Edvantage.ca. Edvantage hardcopy cards are no longer being printed as members can access a digital version of the Edvantage card on the website www.edvantage.ca. The GoodLife memberships are purchased online using the link posted on the Edvantage website. The members are asked to provide their organization name (OPSEU local 2100), their last name and Edvantage number.

If you do not have an Edvantage number, or forgot your Edvantage number, please email Paulina Medeiros at secretary-treasurer@local2100.ca.

If you've made it this far in the newsletter, congratulations!

Send an email to chiefsteward@opseu2100.ca to be entered in a draw for some OPSEU swag. The subject line must include the name of the emoji seen here 🍀



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