

EA'SY TALK



Newsletter Representing Educational Assistants & Designated Early Childhood Educators

December 2014

President's Message



As we close in on the holiday season; I reflect on us as a union. I am honoured to work on behalf of more than 700 permanent and supply members. I am proud to dedicate myself to promote respect, dignity and fair treatment of each and every member.

Our membership is diverse not only in our job classes of Educational Assistants and Designated Early Childhood Educators but in where members live, the way they are involved with their community, the changing family make-up and, their heritage. Representing each member while recognizing their unique diversity is an important task I take to heart.

We have built a strong Executive team of activists by providing each executive member with the training they require to carry out duties assigned and to tackle the challenges we face. We will work tirelessly to strive to continue to advocate and meet the needs of ALL members.

The next several months will be challenging as we forge a new path with Bill 122-The School Board Collective Bargaining Act with Central and Local negotiations. It will be with SOLIDARITY we unite with common goals: to fight for a fair wages, maintain workers' rights and to achieve a better quality of life for members and their families.

Let the Christmas season remind us of the love and joy our family, friends and colleagues bring to us not only at Christmas but all year long.

May the spirit of Christmas, the sounds of carols, the falling of snow, the lights of the Christmas tree, the laughter of children and the love of those around you bring joy and happiness into your home.

Merry Christmas!

Patty Coates



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**Your input and
suggestions are
always welcome.
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Bargaining Unit Fueling the Fire Attendees



Fueling the Fire

Fueling the Fire was a 2 day Professional Development Conference hosted by OSSTF/FEESO Educational Services Department held in Toronto November 6-7, 2014. The focus of the conference was *Mental/Emotional Wellness*.

"The *Fueling Our Fire Conference* in Toronto this past November accomplished what it set out to do: re-energize educators! Myself included.

It was an educational services forum filled with world class motivational speakers, current topic of interest workshops and valuable resources.

Also important to mention was the invaluable off-hours networking, friendship building and hallway Q and A's.

There were too many enlightening and inspiring moments to list. I can only suggest you take the opportunity to experience an OSSTF conference of this caliber.

Thanks to all my "awesome" district 17 conference participants and the memorable moments. I'm still putting an "X" on things." - From Donna Beischlag EA at St Joseph's High School Barrie

"Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Fuel for Fire Conference in Toronto hosted by OSSTF Provincial. This experience was refreshing rejuvenating and overall did fuel our spirits and energy upon returning to our daily educational roles. Our students and co-workers will benefit from our having been part of the WOW amazing conference. Go forward with your ideas... make time to laugh ...make time to play and most of all make time to dream. Live your circle of life while caring for yourself and those around you." - From Deb Rowles EA at Monsignor Ronan Elementary School Beeton

Your Executive

2014/2015

President

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New Member Rep

Christine Laciak

Health and Safety Officer

Rita Golds-Nikolic

Communication Officer

Cindy Whidden



The Spirit Of Member Engagement



Our Deepest Sympathy

JOSEPH BLACK Father of Elizabeth Black DECE, July 2014

JOHN RUSIECKI Brother-in-law of Christine Laciak DECE, July 2014

GORDON LANGILLE Husband of Lara Langille EA, August 2014

NOREEN SPEARE Mother of Tammy Loader EA, October 2014

SOPHIA SZCZODROWSKA Mother of Beata Stypulkowski EA, October 2014

BRUNO TASSONE Uncle of Lara Martin EA, October 2014

IGNAZIO CASCIO Grandfather of Vanessa Servino DECE, November 2014

TERRANCE HARKINS Father-in-law of Denise Harkins EA, November 2014

GERALD CONROY Father-in-law of Helen Conroy DECE, November 2014



Congratulations !

Lee Abram-Sendal
Supply EA
on the birth of her son
on October 20, 2014
Joseph James (JJ)
9lb's and 22 inches