

Special points of interest:

- President's Message
- WHMIS Training Required
- Bill 157—Keeping Kids Safe
- Deadline for OCT Fees
- Know Your Collective Agree-



Best wishes of the holiday season to all of you and your families ...

~from your Algoma OT Executive

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Algoma District Occasional Teachers' Local

President's Message

Over the course of this fall, we have had many informative and productive exchanges with Board Personnel regarding issues that impact our members. I am very grateful to all of the members of the Algoma Occasional Teachers' Executive—Elsa Shelswell, Don Laity, Kim Turner and Jeanette Cowen—for attending these meetings, providing input and speaking up consistently on your behalf. As a result of these ongoing meetings with the ADSB, we are able to provide you with the following updates on these issues of concern to members:

~Professional Development

Watch for details of professional development opportunities for Occasional Teachers available through the ADSB at the Professional Activity Day on Friday, January 29th, 2010. The Board is hoping to include OTs through workshops offered or special activities at school sites.

~EI going from 7 to 8

We are in a deadlock with the Board over increasing the number of hours of EI credited for each day of OT work from 7 to 8. This issue was discussed at length at our most recent meeting but it continues to be an area of contention. As a result, this issue will once again be on the agenda for the next meeting with the ADSB.

~Keeping the OT List frozen

The OT list in the Sault Ste. Marie area is frozen indefinitely at this point, with the exception of the French OT List.

~Cross Panel OT Work

Algoma OT members in in the areas of Sault

Ste. Marie, Blind River, Iron Bridge, Elliot Lake and Spanish recently received a letter from the ADSB indicating that they now have the option of teaching at the secondary level once the OT list at the secondary level has been exhausted in their area. Therefore, whenever the secondary OT list in one of these geographic areas is exhausted and there is still a demand for OTs at the secondary level, Teacher Dispatch will offer this work to ETFO Occasional Teachers.

~Leaves of Absence

We have had ongoing discussions with Board Personnel regarding denied Leave of Absence requests (LOAs). Some of our members are still being refused LOAs when they apply for a leave in order to work for another employer temporarily due to the lack of OT work available. With the financial hardships that such limited work opportunities can cause, we understand that members may have to turn to other employment from time to time and we do not believe that they should be penalized for this. As a result, we continue to discuss this issue with the ADSB in the hopes of finding ways in which LOAs can be granted while ensuring that members remain in the know on education issues.

~LTO Pool

Board Personnel are looking to add an additional 20 people to the ADSB LTO Pool some time in January. The 20 new members placed in the LTO Pool will be selected from the list of those who originally applied to the pool in September 2009.

Peter Mead, President

WHMIS TRAINING REQUIRED

If you have not completed the on-line version of WHMIS and still need to do so, you have only until Dec. 31. This is mandatory as a condition of employment!

The Board's license agreement for staff to be able to complete the on-line version expires DEC. 31. Contact Aldo Iacoe (945-7111) for WHMIS website info.

Bill 157—Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act

Become familiar with Bill 157— the “Keeping our Kids Safe at School” Act— which comes into effect on February 1, 2010. This legislation outlines the roles of school staff in making schools safer by:

1. requiring all school staff to report to principals when they become aware that students may have engaged in incidents for which they could be suspended or expelled;
2. requiring the principal to inform the parents of students harmed as a result of an incident for which a student could be suspended or expelled; and
3. requiring that school staff respond if they observe student behavior likely to have a negative impact on the school climate.

Offences which may require suspension include:

1. uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;
2. possessing alcohol or illegal drugs;
3. being under the influence of alcohol;
4. swearing at teacher or at another person in a position of authority;
5. committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school' bullying;
6. any other activity that is an activity for which a principal may suspend a pupil under a policy of the board.

The new amendments require all school staff who become aware of this type of inappropriate student activity to notify the principal “ as soon as reasonably possible” and to complete a copy of new form, the Safe Schools

Incident Reporting Form, on every occasion when a report is made to the Principal regarding student misconduct which can lead to suspension or expulsion. Members could potentially face discipline for failure to comply with the new obligations.

For more detailed information on Bill 157, go to the ETFO website (www.etfo.ca), and select *Publications*, then *Stewards' Mailings and PRS Matters Volume 51— Bill 157*.



*The Sault Ste. Marie Unit of the Algoma District
ETFO invites you to come out to a
Christmas Pub!*

Where? **Brody's** (at the John Rhodes Centre)
When? **Thursday, December 17th, 4:30** to home time!!!!
Who? Contract Teachers, Occasional Teachers, Principals,
Secretarial & Care Staff, EAs, ADSB Personnel...
Why? Great fun, great food (pizza & wings), great prizes

*Donations to Christmas Cheer
accepted at the door*

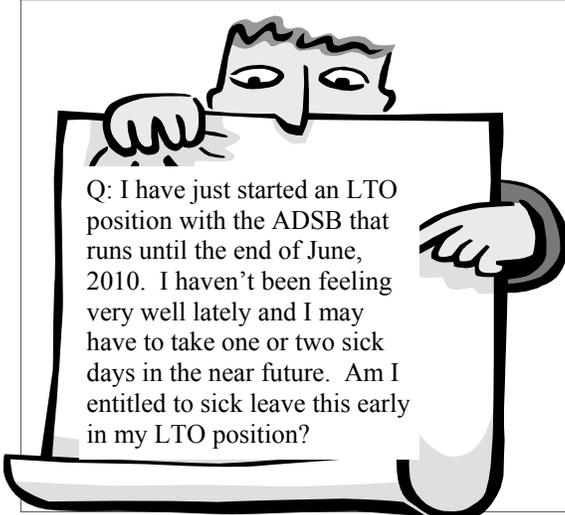
REMINDER

OCT Fee of \$120 is due by April 15th!

H1N1 Update:

Although the first wave of the H1N1 flu seems to have subsided somewhat, members are advised to remain vigilant with hand cleaning and other health precautions as a second wave may occur.

*****Know Your Collective Agreement*****



A: Yes, you are definitely entitled to sick days at any point in your LTO assignment, as long as this assignment will extend beyond 80 teaching days, but you may have to “borrow” these sick days from days that you are granted later in the long-term teaching position.

According to our Collective Agreement, after teaching 60 days in the same long-term occasional assignment, an LTO shall be granted 2 days sick leave credit for every twenty teaching days. Therefore, we must work for 60 days before we are granted two sick days for every 20 days worked. In reality then, at the end of 80 teaching days in the same LTO assignment, the OT is granted 2 sick days.

For sick days that occur prior to the 80 day period, “the teacher may draw on the unused portion of the available days retroactively within the current school year” (article 22.1). In other words, a sick day used early in the long term assignment will be reimbursed by the end of a long term that goes over 60 days.