

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – September 27, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

A lot going on this week, but the big news is on the bargaining front:

Bargaining – While OECTA remains in the same situation, i.e. talks continue, and there is no planned strike vote or job action, a couple of twists occurred in the bigger picture with our union brothers and sisters.

As suggested here last week, OECTA Bargaining sent out an email, on Thursday, regarding **CUPE** job action. CUPE may be engaging in job action come Monday, September 30. Our response is very simple, we support our colleagues and do not take on anything that is normally CUPE work.

And in a significant departure from standard bargaining procedures, **OSSTF** announced that it will be making public information regarding its proposals. The information can be found on their website, for those who are interested. (Scintillating reading!)

Please note, that what OSSTF is posting does not necessarily reflect what is occurring at the OECTA bargaining table. While there is some likelihood that many of the same topics would exist, we cannot extrapolate from the OSSTF information. OECTA is proceeding as normal and any information we need will be provided as necessary. We will all be fully informed in plenty of time, if decisions need to be made.

As always, please ensure that OECTA has a personal/non-Board email address for you so you can be kept up to date.

Committees – Initial committee meetings continued this week at the TSU office, keeping the place really busy. We need, one more time, to thank all those who have volunteered to assist members in the different ways that they do and with such enthusiasm. There is a fantastic vibe around the office these first few weeks of the new year.

Occasional Teachers – The annual OT Bargaining Unit seminar was held this week. This year's meeting was a particularly important one as we reviewed the various changes to our Unit structures and the impact of them. We continue to develop our procedures for serving our OTs and, based on the discussions, saw that we are in very good shape at TSU with what we have in place.

As mentioned last week, Joanne will be handling concerns for the Daily OTs, as she did for years at TOTL. For LTOs, the Release Officer Liaison for the school at which they are working is the person to contact at the office. Please check with your Rep as to who that is, or have a look on the OECTA board for the info. If there are grievance or sick leave concerns OTs will then be directed to myself, Pete McKay or Angela Tersigni, respectively.

Grievance – OECTA also held its annual Grievance Officers Seminar, this week. Angela Tersigni, Sheila Gatensby and myself attended, to hear about issues relating to Freedom of Association and Freedom of Speech as it pertains to teachers during bargaining periods. Various case studies were also presented, giving attendees the opportunity to discuss scenarios with the lawyers from Cavalluzzo LLP who handle our Arbitration cases. Further training was also provided in the handling of CAS, OCT and police investigations, situations that we file grievances over, regularly.

OTIP Seminar – OTIP, which holds our LTD plan, put on its seminar on Tuesday and Wednesday. A number of speakers presented combinations of inspiration and science for teachers. Teaching in a northern Inuit community, Mental Health (and associated Stigma) and the benefits of improved eating, sleeping, moving and thinking, were among the topics. In addition, we reviewed reports on LTD usage and needs for it. Unfortunately, Mental Health continues to be a massive issue for teachers. Various seminars on other topics of interest and assistance to LTD trustees and Release Officers were also available to assist in the continued support of members.

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Gillian and Pete in red at the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit Annual Workshop.