

## TSU Weekly Wrap Up – December 6, 2019

By Pete McKay-TSU 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Well, the week started with snow and ended with snow, and some beautiful sunshine on a Friday afternoon. But what happened in between?

**Bargaining** – OECTA has moved significantly closer to being in a legal strike position. The “no board” report that was filed for at the end of last week was received and we will be able to take action as of December 21. So, no disruption to things between now and Christmas Break! Talks have continued this week and there is another date scheduled for next week.

I’m just going to repeat a couple of lines from last week, as it seems that some things don’t change:

In the meantime, Minister Lecce continues to make things up. And when he was called out for his lie, Lecce ran away.

On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to attend the Lancaster House: Bargaining in the Broader Public Sector Conference. The conference helps the Unit keep up to date on what’s currently happening in the field and to prepare for the upcoming local bargaining...when it eventually happens. Topics covered included: Economic Policy; the role of government in bargaining; bargaining approaches and team composition; and Psychological Health and Safety. And to show just how current the information is, a presenter on one of the panels was OECTA President Liz Stuart, who was able to share some insights into the Central Bargaining process as it is unfolding right now.

**MCTLTD** – The weather played havoc with the scheduled meeting on Monday, however, thanks to the magic of modern telecommunications, we were able to hold the meeting over the phone. The plan continues to be in very good shape, thankfully, and through Diane Docherty and Rene Jansen in de Wal at the office, there, we are able to provide great assistance to those who need it. The Procedures Committee also met after the Board of Trustees Meeting and will be providing some suggestions to the Board in the near future. The AGM of the MCTLTD Plan will be held on February 25, so watch for notice of that closer to the date.

**Committees**- A few committees met this week in the TSU office. The Human Rights Committee GSA event fell victim to the weather, unfortunately, but will be rescheduled in the near future. Communications did a further review of the Social Media Policy that is being developed and that will be presented to Exec next week. It is also planning another edition of the newsletter before Christmas with (spoiler alert!) some fun retrospectives from 20 years ago. All I’ll say is, warm up those vocal chords. And Jt. Safe Schools filled the Board room on Wednesday. The committee continues to enjoy a collegial and collaborative relationship as it ensures that teachers’ concerns for their students are properly handled.

**TSU Emails** – We conducted a survey for one school, today, and all teachers were able to easily participate, once the last few activated their TSU emails. This is a good example of the upgrade to our communication ability with the centralizing of services with Union Strategies Inc. (USI). While we bundle all the disparate services and costs that we previously had into the one provider, we also have some upgrades, such as this, over what we previously could do.  
-And as we have been saying repeatedly, the activation and use of the TSU email is going to be essential if we end up on the pavement in the New Year.  
-For the OTs, a further notice that we will be moving off Board email for you in the very near future. Please activate your TSU account asap.

**OTs**- It has come to the attention of the office that not all OTs are being treated properly. The assignment given to an OT should include only the duties of the absent teacher. Please let us know if you are not sure whether you are being treated in the manner you deserve to be.

**Board Meeting** – Of particular note last night was the prayer used at the meeting. It was the prayer from the TSU Status of Women Committee, which was shared with Chaplains and may have been used in your PD sessions this morning. The focus of the prayer was the Montreal Massacre, which is being commemorated today on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy.

**Christmas Social**- Another fantastic event at the Crooked Cue on Thursday night! Thank you to the Membership Services Committee for the work it did in preparing this. And a huge thanks, too, to all those who came out. It’s always good to see colleagues from other schools and catch up on how they are. For a few of us, we also got to catch up with former students and even with people with whom we went to high school! Small world.