

D12 TEACHERS' BUZZ

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Lauren Simmons, Chair of the Communications Committee offers her perspective on canvassing.

Throughout September and October, OSSTF D12 members have been out canvassing for our endorsed candidates for public school trustee. For many, campaigning on behalf of progressive trustee candidates is a tangible way to help contribute to the future of our TDSB, a way to make a difference by giving our time.

What does a day on the campaign trail look like? Campaign activities vary, of course, but you can expect lots of walking, either up and down parallel streets in a neighbourhood or down stairs in an apartment building.

Depending on the nature of the canvas, if the candidate is with you, you'll likely knock on doors, hand out lit, and facilitate conversation with the voters at the doors. If the candidate isn't with you, or if you're in a large apartment building, you'll more likely do a simple lit drop – stuffing candidate brochures or postcards under doors and into mailboxes.

On an average 3 hour canvas, you can expect to walk 5k or more. It goes without saying that you should make sure you're adequately fed and hydrated. Candidate offices will often help with this - we've seen everything from standard Timbits to gourmet cupcakes to Portuguese tarts - but make sure you bring your own water and snacks if you need them. Many canvasses end with a debrief beverage, too, so plan to leave some extra time for that if you like.

The best part of canvassing, in this member's experience, is getting to know the candidate, and really understanding why they're running. At the end of a long day, you can rest assured knowing you've made a contribution to preserving the future of public education.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

We need your help to ensure that trustees who will promote and defend quality public education are the ones elected in the municipal election on October 27. Volunteers are needed to work at endorsed trustee candidates' offices. A time release plan is available. For a list of endorsed candidates go to our [website](#).

To learn more about volunteering email Mike Platt—mplatt@ossfd12.com

Upcoming Events

- * Oct. 23 —Pregnancy, Parental & Adoption Leave Workshop
- * Oct. 24-26—Branch Presidents' Workshop
- * Oct. 28 —Retirement Workshop
- * Nov. 20—STBU Council Meeting

Call the office or visit our website for more details about these events.

MATH FORUM & AQ

Eight OSSTF Toronto teachers have been selected to participate in a Math Forum presented by the Educational Services department of Provincial OSSTF and funded by the Ministry of Education. The forum will allow members to access additional training to “promote balanced

learning that focuses on critical thinking” and assist teachers in improving their math instruction through the use of technology.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation is also offering a \$450 subsidy to members who complete their Addition-

al Qualifications in Mathematics as part of an agreement with the Ministry of Education. Any member who has completed a Math AQ since April 2014 is eligible to apply. FAQs and applications can be found at: <http://www.otffeo.on.ca/en/learning/4594-2/>

**OSSTF Toronto
Secondary Teachers**

1482 Bathurst Street
Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario
M5P 3H1

Tel: 416 -393-8900
Fax: 416-393-8912



www.osstftoronto.com

follow us on
twitter



www.twitter.com/osstftoronto



www.facebook.com/osstftoronto



OSSTF Celebrates Women's History Month

October is women's history month in Canada. Did you know that the Toronto District School Board officially recognizes Women's History month as a result of OSSTF Toronto activism? It was a motion put forth by the District 12 Status of Women committee that paved the way for this month to be recognized in schools and worksites across the city. OSSTF Toronto has a long history of activism around women's issues. The following are some of our current initiatives:

On Saturday October 4, OSSTF Toronto hosted a virtual vigil for [Sisters in Spirit](#). Members were asked to light a candle and post it on social media in honour of the thousands of missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada. Vigils were held in



communities across Canada.

OSSTF D12 Executive also made a donation for the Sisters for Olivia breakfast and canvass in support of Olivia Chow's mayoral candidacy. The breakfast and canvass is being held on October 25 2014 and is organized by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

OSSTF Toronto is participating in the Toronto and York Region Labour Council's Women's Canvass on Saturday October 18 in support of endorsed trustee candidate Manna Wong (ward 20). Join in by meeting at 4046 Sheppard Avenue east at 10 am – bring your friends & family!

Upcoming events include our annual Kathryn Maxwell Cook for the Cure event in December and our annual Liz Barkley Status of Women awards dinner held in May. Check our [website](#) for further details about these events. If you'd like to get involved, consider coming out to a meeting of the D12 Status of Women committee – new members are always welcome.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Gay-Straight Alliance—October 21

Status of Women Committee—October 21

Eco Committee—October 30

Communications Committee—November 4

Political Action Committee —November 11

P.D. Committee—November 11

Gay-Straight Alliance—November 25



- Unless Otherwise noted, all meetings are open to all Active Members and take place on the 4th floor at 1482 Bathurst Street at 4:30 pm. Refreshments are served. Parking is limited. The office is walking distance from St. Clair West subway station.

A special thanks to all of our members who volunteer to serve on committees! The work of OSSTF cannot be done without you!