

D12 TEACHERS' BUZZ

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

BREAKFAST FOR LEARNING

Help us ensure students start their day off right with a healthy breakfast. Complete an online auto or home insurance quote today and OTIP will donate \$10 to Breakfast for Learning*.

As a member of the education community, you know that when a child is hungry, it's hard for them to learn. That is why OTIP has partnered with **Breakfast for Learning** to help reduce child hunger in Ontario. For every online auto or home insurance quote, OTIP will donate \$10 to Breakfast for Learning. Help us reach OTIP's fundraising goal of \$5,000. Your action will help feed an Ontario student a healthy breakfast and snack every day at school for one week.

Learn more about our partnership with Breakfast for Learning and complete an online quote by visiting www.otip.com/OSSTF_Breakfast. Help us reach our goal of providing 2,500 healthy breakfasts!

**Some restrictions apply. Donation to Breakfast for Learning applies only when you submit an online home or auto insurance quote and use the promo code: BREAKFAST. You must select a quote by clicking "I'm Interested". Maximum of one \$10 (CAN) donation per household. Must be a resident of Ontario. This promotion ends August 31, 2015.*

OTIP believes that being good is great, but doing good is better. Learn more about the [OTIP Community Fund](#) and how we're giving back.



Branch Presidents receive their pin and Chris Aslanidis receives an Honorary membership at the 15th Annual General Meeting and Dinner held on May 21 2015. (photos courtesy of Michael Yaneff [@foreshotsphotography](#))

Annual General Meeting

On Thursday May 21, Toronto teachers held their 15th Annual General Meeting. The meeting was chance to hear from the Provincial Executive as well as make constitutional changes.

The dinner that followed began with an inspiring address by Peter Tabans, NDP Ener-

gy critic warning us about the perils of selling public assets.

The dinner was also an opportunity to recognize the contributions of members. New Branch presidents were awarded with a pin. Annie Antonenko (Yorkdale SS) and Lauren Simmons (Leaside HS) both received an Award

of Merit for meritorious service to the bargaining unit. John MacLennan received the Peter Polley Branch President award for his long service as branch president at Agincourt CI and Chris Aslanidis was presented with an Honorary Membership for having served OSSTF for over 3 decades.

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15th Annual Status of Women Awards Dinner

You can't count on the weather in the first week of May, but you can count on seeing one of the finest gatherings of incredible teachers, students and PSSP members at OSSTF's Status of Women Annual Awards Dinner. This year was particularly lucky as the 15th Annual Event not only delivered on this year's group of extraordinary women and women-identified leaders, but the weather also delivered plenty of sun and warm temperatures.

This year the committee honoured twenty-three students, thirteen teachers and two PSSP members from over twenty work sites. The winners were chosen as a result of the impact they made on students in their schools and the community at large, through their work be it by mentoring students, working actively to promote equity as well as social, economic and political justice of women and women-identified people. In the case of teachers and Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP), they had also planned and implemented many exciting new initiatives that promote understanding of gender-based issues.

Some specific examples of student leadership included being a leading force in the school's Social Justice group *Dare to Inspire*, fundraising for *Free the Children*, fundraising at a local TTC station for the school's initiative *Tokens4Change* in support of the organization *Youth Without Shelter*, being active in the *Me to We* initiative, planning the school prom, and being a school ambassador. With the support of dedicated OSSTF staff, a number of the student recipients had been able to overcome personal obstacles and be-



come confident leaders in their communities. Some were even offered jobs over the summer as well as March Break as a result of their incredible work. As each award was presented, proud parents, teachers and friends were treated to a sample of each recipients' accomplishments.

The dinner was punctuated by this year's speaker Steph Guthrie who spoke about the issue of consent as well as speaking up when you see or hear misogyny. Steph Guthrie is a feminist advocate, organizer and analyst focusing on the intersections of gender, culture and technology. She is also the founder of Women in Toronto Politics (a non-partisan grassroots group that amplifies women's voices and promotes a more inclusive civic discourse for all women), she produces events and online resources to promote a more gender-inclusive civic discourse. Steph's speech was inspiring to all - students, parents, teachers.

The Status of Women Committee encourages all staff to nominate deserving women and women-identified staff and students for next year's awards. Look for nomination packages in January to make sure that a deserving staff member or student has not been overlooked. The committee also welcomes all interested D12 members to our monthly meetings.