

T.O. TEACHERS' BUZZ

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

Protect Yourself While Away

Tips to protect your home and car while on winter vacation

This time of year many people are making plans to head somewhere warm to escape from the cold but before you head out the door, it's important you take the time to protect your belongings. The following tips can help prevent thefts and accidents to your home and car while you're away:

Ask a trusted neighbour or friend to check on your home every few days. Have someone collect your mail and/or newspapers, park a car in your driveway and check to ensure no damages have occurred to your home. Make sure that they know how to reach you if something happens.

Make your home look lived in. Consider using light switch timers that turn lights on and off automatically, and leave curtains and blinds as they would normally be (removing valuables from clear sight). Noticeable changes in your home's typical appearance may hint that you are away.

Update your home inventory and take photos and video of your home's contents.

Double-check that all doors and windows in your home are locked. If you have a security system, set it before you go. Close car windows, lock the doors and keep keys in a safe spot. Be sure not to leave car keys in a visible area in your house: it's best to always keep the keys on you. Keep valuables in the trunk and out of sight.

Remove all valuables from your car and keep registration and proof of insurance on you. Don't announce your vacation plans in public emails or on social media sites; don't alert potential thieves to your absence. Only post travel pictures when you are back. OTIP is here to answer your questions and help you understand your insurance policy. Call OTIP today at 1-888-892-4935 and we'll assess your situation to ensure you have the coverage you need to protect the things that matter to you most. Also, as a member of OSSTF D12 Toronto Secondary Teachers' Bargaining Unit, you could save up to 50% off your home insurance. Visit www.otip.com/OSSTF12-TBU to learn more.

OSSTF TORONTO REMEMBERS DECEMBER 6 WITH MEMORIAL



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

Once again, members of OSSTF Toronto Teachers showed their generosity this holiday season by donating toys, food and gift cards to Operation Christmas Cheer.

Operation Christmas Cheer's mandate is to deliver grass-roots support, cheer, toys,

food and gift cards to union families who are on strike or lockout during the holiday season.

This year, there is an overwhelming amount need. For example, OPSEU has 70 members on strike for 32 weeks, UNIFOR 4266 whose

members have been on strike for 26 weeks and USW Hamilton who have had members on strike for 175 weeks.

This year, Toronto teachers donated over 600 dollars worth of gift cards and several boxes of toys and food.