

T.O. TEACHERS' BUZZ

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

Join a Provincial Committee

Did you know that Provincial OSSTF has a number of committees on which members participate?

Lauren Simmons (Leaside HS) has served on two committees. In her words, "Sitting on a provincial committee is a great way to feel connected to the larger scope of the work done by OSSTF/FEESO. Experiences vary depending on the nature of the committee you're on - some are big, with several sub-committees, and some are small, the work divided amongst all the committee members. Committees do things like advise the Provincial Executive, bring motions to Provincial Council and AMPA, run conferences and regional workshops, create materials for publication and distribution to members, and share ideas which members can take back to their districts. You learn a lot on provincial committees, getting updates from PE and Secretariat about OSSTF's work lobbying the government, about our work with affiliates, and about our other projects and connections that relate to the work of the committee you're on. One great thing about sitting on a provincial committee is that you can connect with colleagues from around the province and hear about the work they're doing and the challenges they're facing. I have friends from many other districts thanks to my committee work, and those bonds strengthen my connection to OSSTF."



This year, Laura Groome (SCAS) and Hayssam Hulays (Executive) were appointed to a committee. Several other D12 members already serve. Applications are available in January/ February of each year. Check the website/ your email for details next winter!

Member Engagement

Did you know that for the 2015-2016 school year there is a special Member Engagement Fund from which members at branches can apply for up to \$500.00 to participate in new/ existing initiatives that provide for member engagement and heighten the profile of OSST in the community. To obtain the funding, the initiative must be supported by a Branch motion and an application must be submitted by the Branch President. Find more details on our [website](#).

Upcoming Events

- * April 28—Retirement Workshop CANCELLED
- * April 28—Executive Elections Nomination Deadline
- * May 5 — Status of Women Awards Dinner
- * May 19—Annual General Meeting

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

15 and Fairness Campaign

On December 12 2015, several members of the Political Action Committee, the Status of Women Committee and the Executive gathered at the Toronto Eaton Centre to raise awareness about the [Fight for 15 and Fairness](#) Campaign. The campaign, which has been endorsed by the Ontario Federation of

Labour, OSSTF and several other labour organizations, focuses on the demand for a \$15.00 minimum wage and fairness— decent hours, paid sick days, and respect at work.

More recently, our members participated in a Twitter storm created by our local

Political Action Committee. In conjunction with members from the Status of Women committee, an op-ed was also submitted to the Toronto Star.

Get more information about the campaign at [15andfairness.org](#) or on Twitter: [@fairwagesnow](#)

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Day of Remembrance

Across the TDSB, many OSSTF members worked with students to create displays commemorating the National Day of Remembrance (December 6). Below is an example of one such display.

Congratulations and appreciation are due to the Grade 12 Illustration class at Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts, working under teacher Lynda Hattin. To commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, on December 6th, Ms. Hattin's class turned to the events of the 1989 massacre at École Polytechnique as the catalyst for their composi-



tions. Their display of artwork in Wexford's foyer was a compelling way to remember the women who died in Montreal. The students' creativity and skill also challenged the entire school community to a greater awareness of the violence that women continue to face around the world.

The students who contributed work to the display, and whose work can be seen on OSSTF Toronto's FaceBook page are: Shann Chiu, Elena Dokoska, Nicole Ducker, Cora Fu, Cindy Hoang, Dea Jusuf, Georgia Kakarelis, Dason Kwok, Mac Sulyok, Tessa Parreira, Cameron Roberts, Vanessa Roberts, Melissa Roopnauth, Richard Thorogood, Breanna Tucker, Anna Weare, Daisy Wen, and Emily Winick.

Images of student work can be seen in the Facebook album, "[Wexford School For the Arts December 6 Memorial](#)"

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Gay-Straight Alliance —May 3

Communications Committee —May 3

Eco Committee —May 10

Political Action Committee —May 10

PD committee —May 10

Human Rights Committee—May 12



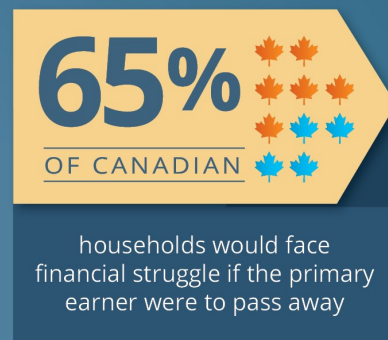
- Unless Otherwise noted, all meetings are open to all members and take place on the 4th floor at 1482 Bathurst Street at 4:30 pm. Refreshments are served. Parking is limited. Walking distance from St. Clair West subway station.

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

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