

# T.O. TEACHERS' BUZZ

## Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

### UNITED WAY SUPPORT

It isn't often that OSSTF Toronto and the TDSB fully agree on something, but the good work that the United Way does is one area where we do. Through our affiliation with Toronto and York Region Labour Council OSSTF Toronto has supported the United Way for many years. This year we ask members to consider making a direct donation through the TDSB's United Way drive.



The United Way mobilizes a broad range of resources to identify the socio-economic issues that impact on our students, their families and our community. Your support will enable the United Way to continue to set priorities, address root causes of social problems and continue to work toward making positive and lasting change. With each of us contributing what we can this collective action will make a difference to programs for children, youth, families and our community.

OSSTF Toronto encourages each of you to consider making an e-pledge. As an added bonus, a pledge of just \$2 per pay enters you into the TDSB's draw for great prizes!

### QUEEN'S PARK NEWS

If you are interested in the latest goings on at Queen's Park, then *Queen's Park Notes* is for you! Available on our [website](#) in the News section, *Queen's Park Notes* is written by our Provincial Legislative Observer who is responsible for monitoring government initiatives and legislation. With a particular focus on education and labour news, this informative synopsis is written weekly while the Legislature is in session. Great for your civics classes too!

### Upcoming Events

- \* Jan. 12 —OTIP/ EFG Retirement Planning
- \* Jan. 19 —STBU Council meeting
- \* Feb. 16 — STBU Council meeting
- \* Feb. 17 — Board-wide PD Day

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

### 10 Tips for Safe Travel

The time leading up to a vacation—especially that last check before you leave for the airport—can be both exciting and stressful. Inevitably, it seems, you board the plane, sit down and realize you've forgotten something. As inconvenient as this may be, if you are aware of and remember to do the following 10 things, you'll spend less time worrying about the "what ifs" and more time enjoying your vacation.

Visit [www.otip.com/article8](http://www.otip.com/article8) to read the full article.

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## Join a local committee!

OSSTF Toronto has many committees made up of volunteer members from across the District. The committees listed below are “drop-in” – so check our web-site calendar for dates and plan to attend a committee meeting soon!

**ECO** provides expertise and advice to the District Executive and other committees about environmental issues and practices, organizes events and raises awareness.

**POLITICAL ACTION** advises the District Executive on matters concerning political action and implements political action activities approved by Provincial OSSTF or the District Executive.

**INDIGENOUS AND WORKERS OF COLOUR (AD-HOC)** provides a space where OSSTF members of colour can raise issues of concern to members of colour and make recommendations about how to better incorporate anti-racism into the union.

and how to better address the concerns of workers of colour in the District.

**STATUS OF WOMEN** organizes an Awards Dinner, and other events, and provides an opportunity for discussion of women’s issues and the development of initiatives to deal with those issues.

**GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE** encourages and supports school-based GSAs, coalitions and communities that work towards making safe school environments for all.

**COMMUNICATIONS** works to promote the dissemination of information within the District, provides expertise, and makes recommendations for long term communications strategies.

**HUMAN RIGHTS** advises the District Executive on human rights policies and practices, and takes initiatives in the area of equity and human rights.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

Status of Women—Dec. 20

Indigenous & Workers of Colour—Dec. 20

Gay-Straight Alliance—Jan. 10

Professional Development —Jan. 10

Eco — Jan. 12

Human Rights —Jan. 12

Communications and Political Action (joint mtg.) —Jan. 17

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.



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