

# T.O. TEACHERS' BUZZ

## Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto

### ATTENDING AMPA!

Just attended my first AMPA (Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly)! Over 500 teachers, social workers, secretaries, caretakers, and much more all at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel over March 10 - 13 2017.

Coming from the largest delegation to AMPA, Toronto, it was great to have many familiar and friendly faces around during a weekend of massive novelty. At the same time, it was a friendly reminder of how small Toronto is compared to the rest of Ontario. The hundreds of motions were also fun (seriously, not sarcastically).

Listening to different perspectives and having interesting debates is always good for our internal democracy. We had a presentation from our Education Minister, Mitzie Hunter, who was grilled with questions afterwards. I especially enjoyed the presentation from Lawrence Hill, author of the *Book of Negroes*, who spoke about anti-racism and its intersections in Canada. Lastly, and what really specialized this experience, was the election of our Provincial Executive and the night-time suite experience. Looking forward to AMPA next year!

By: Derik Chica, Northview Heights



### 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

- \* April 27 —OSSTF Retirement Workshop (60 Mobile Drive)
  - \* May 4 —OTIP/ EFG Retirement Workshop
  - \* May 18—Annual General Meeting
- Call the office or visit our website for more details about these events.

### Kathryn Maxwell Fundraiser

On April 5 2017, OSSTF Toronto members and friends gathered at a fundraiser organized by the Status of Women Committee to honour the memory of Kathryn Maxwell who

was a beloved member of the Executive, also dedicated to women's issue in the union.

The fundraiser, held at Glad Day Bookstore, included a panel discussion

of community activists and stand-up comedy featuring Courtney Alysse Skye and Hoodo Hersi. All proceeds raised have been donated to the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto.

**OSSTF Toronto  
Secondary Teachers**

1482 Bathurst Street  
Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5P 3H1

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



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## Renovating this summer?

### Four important steps for hiring a renovation contractor

Do you have a renovation project on your to-do list this summer? If you are going to hire a contractor to help you complete it, there are a few important steps you need to take.

Most of us have heard a contractor horror story through a friend, family member, or have seen it on a home improvement show. Many things could go wrong. Whether it's work not performed to code, not meeting your desired specifications, unexpected delays, or costs going way over budget, home renovations can be a stressful endeavour.

A survey by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports that of the 40 percent of Canadian households who renovate their home, about three quarters hire a contractor. Here are four important tips before you do:

**1. Ask for referrals:** Know someone who renovated their home? Ask them to refer contractors that they've used and had great success with – especially on similar projects.

**2. Look for consistency and permanence:** The ideal service provider would have a physical business office and has been in business for a number of years under the same name.

**3. Do a legal check:** Ensure contractors are licensed by your province and that they have the proper insurance – meaning they are covered if they are injured during the project.

**4. Notify your insurer:** Contact your insurance broker to discuss whether the renovations will require an adjustment to your home policy.

OTIP is here to answer any of your questions; give us a call today at 1-800-267-6847.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

Status of Women—April 27 (tentative)

Indigenous & Workers of Colour—April 27

Gay-Straight Alliance—May 2

Communications —May 2

Professional Development—May 9

Human Rights —May 11

Eco —May 11



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!**