



E-Newsletters from President Amanda

April 25, 2025

We have 9 weeks left in the school year and as the nicer weather starts, I would like to remind you that there is still time to apply for our Professional Learning Funding. If you are planning on taking an AQ Course this summer or attending a Conference, now is the time to apply for Professional Learning Funds. The Local's Professional Learning Funds are available to you once per school year to a maximum of \$450. You can find the PL Funding Guidelines [here](#) and the Form 1 [here](#). Don't wait to apply as the deadline for submissions is May 31!

We also have two Professional Learning events planned for the month of May. The first one is a Worker's Health and Safety Awareness training session with the Worker's Health and Safety Center. This event will be hosted at the GEETF Office, 49 Dalkeith Drive in Brantford on May 8, 2025. We will start with dinner at 4:00pm. To view the flyer for more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Our Junior/Intermediate Literacy Workshop has been rescheduled for May 12, 2025. Please find the registration information [here](#).

We also have our Annual General Meeting coming up next month, on May 21, 2025. Our Annual GM is a great way to meet other Occasional Teachers, enjoy a meal and win prizes! There will of course be a little bit of business discussed such as our Annual Budget and you will learn what your Executive has been up to this school year. You can register [here](#) to attend the Annual GM at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

Stay safe and Healthy,
President Amanda

April 17, 2025

Happy long weekend!

We have two Professional Learning events planned for the month of May. The first one is a Worker's Health and Safety Awareness training session with the Worker's Health and Safety Center. This event will be hosted at the GEETF Office, 49 Dalkeith Drive in Brantford on May 8, 2025. We will start with dinner at 4:00pm. To view the flyer for more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Our Junior/Intermediate Literacy Workshop has been rescheduled for May 12, 2025. Please find the registration information [here](#).

We also have our Annual General Meeting coming up next month, on May 21, 2025 details will be sent out in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

April 11, 2025

Happy Friday! I want to thank those of you who came out to our Annual Family Movie Event. We had a great time! Thank you so much to our VP Maryanne Goldsmith for planning such a successful event!

The deadline for OCT Fee Payment is quickly approaching. If you were not in an LTO at the beginning of January, you must pay your OCT fees on your own. The OCT Fee Deadline is April 16, 2025.

We have two Professional Learning events planned for the month of May. The first one is a Worker's Health and Safety Awareness training session with the Worker's Health and Safety Center. This event will be hosted at the GEETF Office, 49 Dalkeith Drive in Brantford on May 8, 2025. We will start with dinner at 4:00pm. To view the flyer for more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Our Junior/Intermediate Literacy Workshop has been rescheduled for May 12, 2025. Once all previously registered participants have been contacted, we will post registration information if there is space for new registrations.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the

Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

[April 4, 2025](#)

Happy Friday! I hope that you have weathered the weather this week safely. As you know, our Annual Family and Friends Movie is this weekend. Please join us on Saturday, April 5, 2025 for a private viewing of the new Minecraft Movie. The doors will open at 3:45pm and the movie will start at 4:15pm. You can order up to 6 tickets for the event and you and your guests will enjoy a free small pop and popcorn on us. There will be other concession snacks available for purchase. To register, please click [here](#).

If you reside in Haldimand, you are aware that there is a Bi-Election coming up next week on April 10, 2025 for Wards 1 & 4. We, the Local Union Affiliates, have requested responses from the Candidates regarding their views on Public Education. You can review their responses [here](#). Please ensure that you get out to vote in this very important Bi-Election to ensure that we have Councillors who are Public Education friendly.

We have finalized a date for our Junior/Intermediate Literacy Workshop. If you were previously registered, our PL Chair will be reaching out to you to confirm your availability for the new date. Once this has taken place, registration will re-open if there are any spaces available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

[April 1, 2025](#)

I want to thank those of you who joined us for the Professional Boundaries session today. It was a great session that provided a lot of information that Members can use when questioning whether or not something constitutes crossing a boundary with students and other Education Professionals.

We have two more exciting events coming up this week. On Wednesday, we have our final Zoom Check-in for this school year and on Saturday we have our Annual Movie event at the Strand Theatre in Simcoe.

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, we will be checking in on Zoom for approximately an hour starting at 7:00pm. If you have a burning question or would like to hear the questions and responses that others may bring forward, you can register [here](#).

We are hosting a private viewing of the new Minecraft movie on Saturday, April 5, 2025. The movie will start promptly at 4:15pm with doors opening at 3:45pm. To register for this event and reserve up to 6 spaces, please click [here](#).

As always, please reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

March 25, 2025

Happy Tuesday! I want to remind you of a few upcoming events as well as to invite you to join all of our Grand Erie Educators in a show of Solidarity with our upcoming Red for Ed event on Friday, March 28, 2025.

This Friday, we will be wearing Red to show Solidarity with our fellow Educators across the Border who are under attack from the new government who have dismantled the US Department of Education. We are hoping to produce a solid show of Solidarity to send to our fellow Education Unions so please wear red and send photos to the [Local Office](#).

We are also hosting three events next week. This first week of April, end of March is going to be busy!!

On Monday, March 31, 2025, we are hosting, in partnership with GEETF and our DECEs, a Professional Boundaries workshop. This will be a great learning opportunity/refresher on maintaining Professional Boundaries both at work and while off-duty. To see the flyer and register, click [here](#).

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 7:00pm, we will be hosting our final Zoom Check-in for the year. This is an informal opportunity for you to check-in with the Local Executive and ask any burning questions. You can register for this event [here](#).

Our final event for next week is our Annual Family and Friends movie event. We will be hosting a private viewing of the new Minecraft movie at the Strand Theatre in Simcoe. To view the flyer and register, please click [here](#). You can reserve up to six (6) tickets per Member. Each participant will receive a small pop and popcorn and can purchase any other snacks. The theatre will open at 3:45pm with the movie starting promptly at 4:15pm. We hope to see you there!

We will be rescheduling our Junior/Intermediate Literacy as well as our Classroom Management workshops in April and May. More information will be shared once dates are confirmed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

[March 17, 2025](#)

Welcome Back! I hope that you had a restful March Break. We have some upcoming events for both you and your family.

We have a Professional Boundaries course for those of you who may be wondering, "what exactly does being a Teacher mean to both my personal and professional life?" This is a great refresher for those of us who have been in the profession for a long time but it is also beneficial to newer Members who are just getting into the classroom and may be interested in learning more about how being an Education Professional not only places us at a high standard in the classroom but outside of the classroom too. To view the flyer and register, please click [here](#). The Professional Boundaries workshop will take place on Monday, March 31, 2025 at the GEETF Office starting with dinner at 4:00pm.

We also have our Zoom Check-in on April 2, 2025 starting at 7:00pm. These check-ins are open for about an hour (depending on participant questions) and are a great opportunity for you to connect with your Local Executive Members. To register for the Zoom Check-in, please click [here](#).

Lastly, we have our Annual Family and Friends Movie Event coming up on April 2, 2025 starting at 4:15pm sharp. Each attendee will receive a small popcorn and pop to enjoy while watching the Minecraft Movie. To register for yourself and up to 5 family members/friends please click [here](#).

I look forward to seeing you out at one of our upcoming events! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

[March 7, 2025](#)

You did it!! We have made it to March Break!!! Please make sure that you take

time for yourself over the break. It is time for you to relax and rejuvenate.

The Local Office will be closed during the break from March 10-14, 2025 inclusive. The Local Office will reopen at 8:30am on Monday, March 17, 2025.

We have been asked to show support for our ONA Colleagues on March 20, 2025 at their protest from 11:00am-1:00pm.

All-Out Hospital Rallies – Join Us March 20!

On March 20, nurses and health-care professionals across the province will be hosting All-Out Rallies at their local hospitals to pressure hospital CEOs to agree to nursing ratios now! Hospital CEOs can agree to implement nursing ratios in our new collective agreement up until we start arbitration in April.

For more information on their asks, click [here](#).

We have three upcoming events after the break. We have one workshop, a Zoom Check-In and our Annual Family and Friends Movie event.

On March 19, 2025 we have a joint Wellness workshop with GEETF at the GEETF Office starting at 3:45pm. You can view the flyer and register for this workshop [here](#).

Our next Zoom Check-In is scheduled for April 2, 2025 at 7:00pm. You can register for the Check-In [here](#).

We also have our Annual Movie event at the Strand in Simcoe on April 5, 2025. Doors will open at 4:00pm and the movie will start at 4:15pm. We will be viewing the new Minecraft movie!!! I am so excited and can't wait to see you there! You can view the flyer and RSVP [here](#). Please also email [Maryanne Goldsmith](#) with the number of people in your party (limit of 6).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#). If anything pops up over the break that is of an urgent nature, please call the Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836.

[February 21, 2025](#)

It's hard to believe that there is only one week left in February! I hope that you enjoyed your Family Day weekend (maybe not while shoveling). We have hosted one Politics in the Pub in Norfolk this week and tonight (4-6pm) we are hosting our second event of this week at Concession Road Brewery in Jarvis. Please come out if you are available. We will have Candidates from the Green Party,

NDP as well as our current MPP who is an Independent.

Advance Polls are now open. Please get out and vote! Bring a friend or two and send in a picture of yourself outside of the voting location. See our VP Maryanne Goldsmith who voted earlier today.



There is a Notes for Votes event occurring on Monday, February 24 from 5-9pm at Brandi's Kitchen and Bar on King George Road in Brantford. You can view the flyer [here](#).

Election Day is on February 27, 2025. Poll stations are open from 9am-9pm. Find your poll station [here](#).

ETFO is endorsing some Candidates, you can view the early polling stations and ETFO endorsed Candidates [here](#).

We also have an upcoming Paint Night on March 4, 2025 at the GEETF Office starting at 4:30pm. For more information and to register, please click [here](#). This is a Woman's Only event.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

[February 14, 2025](#)

Happy long weekend! We have been very busy planning Political Events for you this month. Our Education Forum in Brantford was very well attended. We have two events coming up next week. Please see the end of this email for a Measles update.

We are hosting a "Politics in the Pub" in Norfolk at the [New Limburg Brewery](#) on February 20 and in Haldimand at [Concession Road Brewery](#) on February 21. Both events will run from 4-6pm and at the time of this email, MPP Bobbi Ann Brady has confirmed attendance with all other Candidates

being invited. Refreshments will be provided.

Please remember that you can vote at anytime between now and the Election Day at various locations. Early voting is at your [Returning Office](#). The chart includes most Returning Office locations in the Ridings in which all of our Members reside. You can find yours by clicking the above link.

Whether you vote in advance or on Election Day, please get out and vote! We need a government in power that will support Publicly Funded, Public Education.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

Stay Safe and Healthy,
President Amanda

"United we stand, divided we fall." Aesop

Measles Update

At the time of this email, no new cases have been reported to Public

Health. Public Health is working very closely with the Grand Erie District School District to ensure that we are keeping all of our Members safe at work. If you have concerns over your immunity, please see your Family Physician for an immunity check and possible MMR Booster. All locations have been deemed safe for work by the Grand Erie Public Health Unit. You can check the [Public Health website](#) for updates on locations where there have been confirmed cases of Measles and the dates when close contacts could have occurred. Any unvaccinated individuals who have been in contact are currently being quarantined and are not permitted at school. All impacted Members have been contacted by Public Health to confirm their individual immunity and have either been quarantined or cleared for work. I will send out updates on any new impacted sites as they are communicated by the Board and Public Health.

February 10, 2025

I would like to inform you that there have been positive cases of Measles at both Houghton and Teeterville Schools. All students and staff that have been identified as coming into direct contact with the student(s) who have confirmed cases, have been contacted by the Grand Erie Public Health Unit. Exposed Staff have to confirm their immunity and/or possibly receive a booster. The Health Unit has been on-site providing vaccinations and students who are unvaccinated are currently quarantining at home.

The sites have been deemed "safe" and continue to function but may require additional OTs until all Staff have been cleared to return to work. Class sizes may remain small until the unvaccinated students return after their quarantine period.

Please visit the [GEPH website](#) for further information on exposures in the community including restaurants and stores. If/when any new information regarding worksites is shared with the Local, I will share it with you.

February 7, 2025

This has been a whirlwind week at the Office! I apologize for not sending out the Inclement Weather messaging yesterday as I was in Toronto for meetings this week and not really paying attention to the weather. Daily OTs

assignments would have been cancelled and you will not be paid for them. LTO assignments in their first nine (9) days would not be interrupted and LTOs are paid for Inclement Weather Days.

We have a number of upcoming events with the upcoming Provincial Election.

February 10 - Education Forum at the Rope Factory, no registration required. See the flyer [here](#).

February 11 - Political Art Night at the GEETF Office. For more information, please click [here](#).

February 20 - Norfolk Politics in the Pub (more information to follow)

February 21 - Haldimand Politics in the Pub (more information to follow)

You can also expect outreach from the Grand Erie ETFO contacts. We have combined to work as one throughout the Provincial Election with our DECE and Permanent Teacher Colleagues. We will be utilizing texting, emails and personal phone calls to reach out to every Member within the three ETFO Locals in Grand Erie.

Other upcoming events also include the [Coldest Night](#) on February 22, [RTIP](#) Presentation on February 24.

We will be postponing our February 26 Junior/Intermediate Literacy workshop as the space that we using is needed to continue with upcoming Provincial Elections preparations. Information regarding a new date will be sent out as soon as we have secured a new location but, we hope to see you out at one or more of our upcoming events!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

Information on Where to Vote

Specific early voting location for Brantford-Brant and Haldimand Norfolk
BRANTFORD - BRANT

225 Henry St., Brantford, ON N3S 7R4

Phone: 1-(833) 605-0492

January 30, 2025 to February 26, 2025

Mon - Sat: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sun: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

In person voting at this location ends February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM

HALDIMAND - NORFOLK

Simcoe Town Centre (Units 117-120)

117-150 West St., Norfolk County, ON N3Y 2Z4

Phone: 1-(833) 605-0509

January 30, 2025 to February 26, 2025

Mon - Sat: 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sun: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

In person voting at this location ends February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM

**Elections Ontario link for general information about voting in the upcoming
Provincial election on February 27, 2025**

<https://www.elections.on.ca/en/voting-in-ontario/voting-in-provincial-elections.html>

Search tool to find Local Elections Office and Candidates running in Ridings

<https://voterinformationservice.elections.on.ca/en/election/search?mode=electoral>
[District](#)

A Message from OTIP

Here's how members of the education community can financially plan for their futures



Between preparing lesson plans to participating in extracurricular activities, it can be hard to find the time to learn about your personal finances.

But financial planning is essential to your long-term well-being, and with proper planning, you can reach your financial goals in the most efficient way possible.

Here are a few key things you should know about financial planning and taxes ahead of the RRSP and tax deadlines: <https://bit.ly/40U4XjM>.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Maximize your investments this RRSP season.

Open a new RRSP, TFSA, FHSA, or non-registered account and get \$100*!

Visit <https://bit.ly/4gAp8YF> or call 1.800.263.9541 (*cite promo code Invest100*) to get started today.

Educators Financial Group has been offering financial planning and a wide selection of investing and lending products and services exclusively to

education members and their families since 1975. It is this strong history that has enabled them to become the education community's financial specialist — empowering educators to achieve their financial goals. Book your complimentary consultation today: <https://bit.ly/4hfk3Ga>.

January 31, 2025

Happy Friday! We have a number of upcoming events and information about the upcoming Provincial Elections. Information about the upcoming Elections can be found at the bottom of this email.

I would like to make you aware that there have been confirmed cases of Measles at Houghton. If you have taught at Houghton and are feeling unwell, are immunocompromised or unvaccinated, please seek advise from Grand Erie Public Health. Here is the information on Measles from the GEPH.

We unfortunately had to postpone our Classroom Management Workshop until the Spring but we are hopeful that you will be able to attend. A new flyer and registration form will be sent out once the date is finalized.

We have our Education Forum coming up in Brantford with the Candidates who are running in Brant/Brantford. This event will take place at the Rope Factory on February 10, 2025 starting at 4:00pm. No registration is required. The flyer has been updated to reflect the declared Candidates. The event will take place at the Rope Factory at 111 Sherwood Drive, Unit 27 in Brantford.

The Coldest Night of the Year will take place on February 22, 2025. To view the poster and learn more, please click here.

There is an upcoming retirement workshop being held in Delhi on February 24, 2025. For more information and to register, please click here.

We are also hosting a Junior and Intermediate Literacy Workshop on February 26, 2025 at the GEETF Office. For more information and to register, please click here.

I hope to see you out at one of our upcoming events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via email.

With the upcoming Provincial Election upon us, we will be using various forms of communication to contact you. You will continue to receive emails but will also

receive text messages and personal phone calls leading up to the election from our Local Election Mobilizers. We are hoping that you get out to the Polls and vote for Education.

We will have buttons and lawn signs from ETFO which can be ordered [here](#).

We need smaller class sizes. Please see the fact sheet [here](#) regarding the need for smaller class sizes.

We also need to focus on Violence in the Workplace. A fact sheet on violence in the schools can be found [here](#).

Please talk to your colleagues and families about getting out to vote. Voter turnout is key in ensuring that we elect the right government for Education.

January 24, 2025

Happy Friday! It has been a long cold week and I hope that you were able to stay warm. As we watch South of the Border, we also need to start thinking ahead to our own Provincial and Federal Elections. I am including some videos and fact sheets at the end of this email.

We have three events that are occurring Locally next month and a bit as well as an Education Forum which has been sponsored by all of our Local Trade Unions in Grand Erie. I am also including some upcoming Provincial Conferences that might be of interest to you. Please note that there may be a registration fee for these but you can submit a Form 1 for Professional Learning Funds and recoup the fee if you have not yet utilized your \$450 from our Professional Learning Funds this school year.

Our next workshop is a Classroom Management Workshop being hosted on February 3, 2025 at the GEETF Office in Brantford. For more information and to view the flyer, click [here](#).

On February 26, 2025, we will be co-hosting a Junior Literacy Workshop with GEETF. This event will also be hosted at the GEETF Office in Brantford. For more information and to view the flyer, please click [here](#).

Our Status of Women's Committee is hosting a paint night for Members who identify as female on March 4, 2025. This event will also be hosted at the GEETF Office. For more information and to view the flyer, please click [here](#).

The Education Forum is being hosted at the Rope Factory in Brantford on February 10, 2025 from 5:00-6:30pm with the doors opening at 4:30pm and will include a panel of Brant-Brantford Provincial MPP candidates and sitting MPPs. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions. The focus of this Forum is the future of education. You can view the flyer [here](#).

We have also joined with our Labour Partners to form the ETFO Educators of Grand Erie to raise monies for the Coldest Night of the Year. This event will be held on February 22, 2025. For more information, please click [here](#).

There is also an upcoming RTIP Session in Delhi at the Delhi District German Hall on February 24, 2025 from 4:30-6:30pm. You can view the flyer and register [here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

ETFO Provincial hosts Conferences and Workshops throughout the year. Below are the programs that are coming up in the next couple of months. These are all hosted at the ETFO Provincial Office in Toronto.

Bargaining for Members in their First Five Years will be taking place on March 6, 2025. You can view the flyer [here](#). Registration is open and closes on February 3, 2025.

The New Member Conference will be taking place on March 25-26, 2025. This is a Women's Only Program. You can view the flyer [here](#). Registration is open and closes on February 3, 2025.

Resisting Resilience - Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace will be taking place on March 28-29, 2025. You can view the flyer [here](#). Registration is open and closes on January 27, 2025.

Putting Young Minds First - An ETFO Symposium on Student Mental Health will be taking place on April 12, 2025. You can view the flyer [here](#). Registration opens on February 3, 2025.

We are also starting to focus on the upcoming Provincial Elections. For social media resources, you can go to ETFO's [Building Better Schools](#) website. I will be sharing resources on my upcoming emails. This week's resources are below.

Fact Sheets on [Violence in Schools](#) and [Class Size](#).

Tip Sheets on [Political Conversation Starters](#) and [How to have Effective Conversations about the Election](#).

Here are the Social Media shareables for your use.

[Our kids are Worth it](#)

[Wrong Priority Wrong Premier](#)

I hope that you find these resources helpful.

January 10, 2025

I hope that your first week back after the break has gone well. I have some reminders about report cards and responsibilities surrounding report cards for you if you are transitioning in/out of a LTO as well as our upcoming Classroom Management Workshop and your OCT Fees.

If you are finishing up or starting into a long term assignment, please see the following information regarding report cards and your responsibilities.

13.07 a) Where a long-term assignment has no determined end date, and the regular Teacher returns from leave within a week of report cards or progress reports being completed, the Occasional Teacher may be requested to assist with the completion of these report cards or progress reports. In such instances, the Occasional Teacher shall be paid for the time to assist in the completing the report cards or progress reports. The rate of pay shall be LTO rate of pay for the day.

b) Occasional Teachers whose LTO assignment ends prior to the assessment and evaluation PA Day, shall leave all anecdotal comments and grades for the incoming Teacher in a format that is easy to understand for inputting into report cards in according with Growing Success.

This information is directly from our Collective Agreement. Please ensure that if your LTO has ended, and you are called back to assist with reports that you are paid at Grid Rate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office.

We have a Classroom Management workshop coming up on February 3, 2025 at

the GEETF Office in Brantford. To view the flyer and register, please click [here](#).

If you are a Daily OT, you must renew your OCT personally by accessing your account on the OCT Website and clicking on "renewal." You have until April 15, 2025 to complete your payment. If you are in a LTO, the Board will make the deduction on your January 31, 2025 pay.

If you are on a Transitional Certificate or Multi-session Transitional Certificate and you have completed your graduation requirements, please remember to submit all of your pre-service program requirements as soon as possible. If you apply after February 1, 2025, you will be required to write the Math Proficiency Test (MPT). If you are required to write the MPT please visit the mathproficiencytest.ca for the latest information on test registration and sittings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

January 6, 2025

Welcome Back! I hope that you were able to get some rest over the Winter Break. We are back to school today and I hope that you have a great first day back. We have a Zoom Check-In coming up on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00pm. If you have any burning questions, please register [here](#) and I will see you there! Have a great rest of the week.

December 20, 2024

We made it! On behalf of your Local Executive, I want to wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy holiday season. The Local Office will be closed over the Winter Break. If you have an urgent matter, please contact the ETFO Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836.

We are also looking for Members who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ and are interested in joining an Advisory Committee to provide their Executive with information to bring back to the Board. The poster can be found [here](#) and you can indicate your interest in joining [here](#). This will be a group which is composed of Members from all Labour Unions (ETFO, OSSTF, CUPE).

I am also including some information for you to ponder over the break. ETFO Provincial is hosting their annual OT Conference in February. You can view the flyer [here](#) for more information. Registration is open until January 6, 2025 until 4:00pm.

EPIC - Educators and Parents in Coalition has published it's first [newsletter](#). You can sign up to receive the newsletter [here](#).

A Holiday message from ETFO Provincial President Karen Brown can be viewed [here](#).

We are hosting our Public free skate on January 2, 2025 at the Brant Sports Complex from 3:30-4:30pm. You can view the flyer [here](#).

If you are looking into a new cellular plan over the break, you can view the Telus offers [here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send them to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#). Any phone calls or emails sent to the Local Office will be returned after the Winter Break.

December 10, 2024

The countdown is on to Winter Break! Only 8 days to go!! I hope that you are fairing well. Please ensure that you check the Board website on days when there are snowy/icy conditions in the forecast. The Board will post by 6:30am if buses will be running. If busses are cancelled, schools will be closed and all OT assignments will be cancelled. You will receive notification via your Board email. Please see the Board's Inclement Weather Procedure [here](#). I encourage you to print out Appendix A which lists the schools within each Zone.

We are hosting a Public Skating event on January 2, 2025. You can view the poster [here](#).

We will also be hosting a Zoom Check-In on January 8, 2025 at 7:00pm. Check-Ins are open for one hour and any Member can register and bring forward any questions or concerns. You can register [here](#).

If you are in an LTO or are starting an LTO in January, please ensure that your

ADS information is up to date. If changes need to be division, please advise your Admin so that they can update your ADS information. As you know, you can leave your grade and other information in your voice/text instructions in order to provide OTs with other information regarding the assignment that they are accepting. It is also your responsibility to ensure that Article 13.01 from our Collective Agreement is fulfilled. This Article outlines Working Conditions for Daily OTs and includes what is required to be left in your OT Binder. Please see below.

1. *During the term of this Collective Agreement, the Board shall make available up-to-date in-school information for Occasional Teachers. This information shall include: a timetable for the Occasional Teacher's assignment (including supervision periods), a schedule identifying period times, an up-to-date class list, a seating plan, a floor plan of the school, an outline of the school day (including opening procedures, washroom procedures), fire drill and emergency procedures, written information on school discipline procedures, information on access to equipment and sources of assistance, and a list of students with special health-related including a history of violence or other needs. The Board shall ensure that, to the extent possible, lesson plans and textbooks are available for the class in the casual occasional teaching assignments.*

All Permanent Contract Teachers and Administrators have been reminded of the above and are aware of the requirements. These items are required in order to ensure the safety of the students and OT as well as to ensure that the OT and your students can have a successful day.

Please also ensure that you are also completing all necessary Incident/Injury/Safe School Reports when working. The completion of these reports is pertinent in ensuring that all accessible supports are being provided. Incident/Injury reports are reviewed monthly by the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee and recommendations for supports are made each month based on these reports.

If you are considering enrolling in an AQ Course for January, please remember to submit your Form 1 for Personal Professional Learning prior to January 1, 2025. You could receive a reimbursement of up to \$450, if your application is approved. Members can access up to \$450/school year for the completion of any Personal Professional Learning. You can find the Form 1 and Funding Guidelines on our [website](#) under Professional Learning and Forms. You can also access up to \$35/school year for Professional Resources.

Please also remember to complete the Lost Prep Form (found on our [website](#) landing page) if you are a Daily OT and have lost a preparation period.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office via phone at 519-427-6993 or [email](#).

November 22, 2024

Happy Friday! I cannot believe how quickly the month has been flying by. We have our Seasonal Social coming up on December 4, 2024 at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre starting at 4:30pm. We will have games, prizes, opportunities for mingling and dinner. I hope to see you there! Please register [here](#).

If you were unable to join us for the Listening Tour on October 29, there will be a Town Hall phone call on December 3, 2024 from 6-7pm for our Members to join. I will send out more information closer to the date.

I would also like to thank all of you who have been completing Workplace Violent Incident Reports. If you have been a victim or witness of workplace violence, you must use the Workplace Violence Incident Reporting Tool to make a formal report which the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Worker Group will review. We review these on a monthly basis to identify where supports are needed and whether the supports in place are sufficient to ensure the safety of the worker (you) in the classroom. This reporting tool can be found in the Staff Portal under Applications.

We are also hosting a Free Skate at the Brant Sport Complex on January 2, 2025 from 3:30-4:30pm. There will be no registration required as this is a community event and all are welcome.

We are also creating an Advisory Committee for the 2SLGBTQ+ Community among all Union Groups. Please see the [poster](#) and register if you feel that there are changes that need to happen within Grand Erie and the 2SLGBTQ+ Community. At this time, we are only seeking out Members of the Community and not Allies.

If you are on a Transitional Certificate or are a Teacher Candidate, you must complete the Math Proficiency Test if you apply for your OCT or CQR after February 1, 2025, you will be required to successfully complete the MPT. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

November 1, 2024

It's hard to believe that it's already November! I am sharing some new information with you regarding a new undertaking that all of the Unions within Grand Erie have been working on since last spring. After the success of our Tell the Trustees Campaign, we have decided to move forward with a new Coalition aptly named EPIC - Educators and Parents in Coalition.



We are aiming to bring awareness to the community as to how the impacts of underfunding education by the Ford Government have impacted the services that are being provided to our students. I invite you to share this link with family, friends and parents within the community. Please DO NOT send this information out in classroom newsletters or on social media. It should not be coming from Members but rather from community members. You can find the link [here](#).

We have several events coming up in November and December. Our Zoom Check-in is being hosted on November 6, 2024 at 7:00pm. The link will be open for around an hour for Members to drop in and ask any questions. To register please click [here](#).

We are also hosting our Pregnancy/Parental Leave Session on November 7, 2024 starting with dinner at 4:30pm at the GEETF Office. You can register for this session [here](#).

Our Status Chair, Kathleen Kaufman has created a survey to determine what Women Members or those who identify as Women are asked to complete in order to arrange some exciting new opportunities for personal wellness and opportunities to get to know other Members. Please feel free to complete the [survey](#).

We also have a Special Education Workshop coming up on November 25th with a focus on ASD. This workshop will be hosted at the GEETF Office starting at 4:30pm. You can view the flyer and register [here](#).

Our Annual Seasonal Social will be taking place on December 4, 2024 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre. This is not a business meeting, rather an opportunity to gather and socialize. There will be prizes and a meal to follow our

games. You can register [here](#).

October 25, 2024

Happy Friday! As you are aware from my previous emails, we are having a meeting on Tuesday, October 29 at the Rope Factory in Brantford. This meeting will be your opportunity to bring any concerns that you have to light with our Provincial 1st Vice President, David Mastin. Please come out and share your experiences regarding hiring, classroom concerns and any other concerns that you might have. This is *your* opportunity to share *your* voice. I receive phone calls regularly with concerns that could be rectified at the Central Bargaining table. I always advocate for you but now, Provincial is asking for you to bring your concerns to them. Please join us on Tuesday. There will be food as well as door prizes at the event.

I have also been notified that the ID Tag issue has been resolved. If you continue to experience issues, please [email](#) me as well as idcards@granderie.ca.

We also have our Zoom Check-In coming up on November 6, 2024 at 7:00pm. Check-Ins are open for approximately one hour and are a drop-in format. You can register [here](#) for the Check-In.

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is hosting a variety of virtual workshops regarding your pension. There are two options - for early to mid-career Members and for those looking to retire in the next five years. Please see the links below to register for your event.

Being A Member – Your Life as a Teacher (for early to mid-career members)

Your pension is one of your most important financial assets. Consider this your Pension 101. Designed for all early to mid-career members, you will gain an understanding of how your contributions and pension are calculated, how to maximize your pension benefit and how some life events may impact your pension.

Each presentation will be the same, so please choose one date below and click on it to register.

Being a Member (1.5 hrs)

[Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6 pm](#)

[Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 5 pm](#)

[Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 6 pm](#)

Preparing to Retire (for members within 5 years of retirement)

Each session is about 1.5 hours with a Q&A session.

Each presentation will be the same, so please choose one date below and click on it to register.

[Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 6 pm](#)

**November
Séance en français**

[Mercredi le 20 novembre, 2024 à 18h00](#)

[Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 5 pm](#)

[Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 6 pm](#)

[Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 5 pm](#)

[Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 6 pm](#)

[Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5 pm](#)

October 23, 2024

I apologize for the Monday email but it is short and sweet! For those of you looking for the Itinerant LTO Posting, it will be up in the Staff Portal and on ATE today.

October 20, 2024

We have some great events coming up which is a great opportunity for you to come out and join us!

I want to thank each of you that came out to our Fall General Meeting last night. We enjoyed some camaraderie in sharing our stories with each other as

well as completing some Business such as passing our Local Budget.

We are still seeking one or two more Members who have an interest in Collective Bargaining to join our Local Collective Bargaining Committee. If you are interested, please [email](#) the Local Office and let us know prior to November 1, 2024.

Also, a reminder to complete your Lost Prep Time forms as soon as you miss a preparation period.

I was also made aware of issues with ID Cards not working properly yesterday. If you encounter this issue, please let me know as soon as possible with the name of the location and date.

Upcoming Events

Assessment Workshop

October 24 starting at 4:30pm

View [flyer](#) here and register [here](#)

Location - Zoom

Women's Program - Paint Night

October 28, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#).

Location - GEETF Office

Listening Tour

October 29, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#). This is your opportunity to speak directly to the First Vice President of ETFO regarding your concerns both in the classroom and for the upcoming round of Central Bargaining. This event will be hosted at the Rope Factory in Brantford. Food and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Pregnancy and Parental Leave Information Session

November 7, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#).

Location - GEETF Office

Zoom Check-in

November 6, 2024

This is a casual drop-in on Zoom for you to speak with the Local Executive and ask any questions. We start Check-ins at 7:00pm and they run for about an hour. Register [here](#).

If you ever have any questions or concerns. please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

October 11, 2024

Happy Friday! I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest over this long weekend. I am including the flyers and links to sign up for our upcoming events as well as information about Lost Prep Times.

Upcoming Events

General Meeting

October 17, 2024 starting at 4:30pm with dinner to follow.

Nominations for the [Collective Bargaining Committee](#) have been extended, please submit as soon as possible.

Register - [here](#)

Location - Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Center

Assessment Workshop

October 24 starting at 4:30pm

View [flyer](#) here and register [here](#)

Location - Zoom

Women's Program - Paint Night

October 28, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#).

Location - GEETF Office

Listening Tour

October 29, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#). This is your opportunity to speak directly to the First Vice President of ETFO regarding your concerns both in the classroom and for the upcoming round of Central Bargaining. This event will be hosted at the Rope Factory in Paris. Food and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Pregnancy and Parental Leave Information Session

November 7, 2024

View [flyer](#) and register [here](#).

Location - GEETF Office

Lost Prep Times - I have already started to hear about OTs losing their preparation time. Please complete the [Form](#) and submit it to HR *every time you lose your scheduled preparation time*. The form can also be found on our website landing page.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

October 7, 2024

Wow! Can you believe that it is October already?! We have a number of upcoming events planned for you this month.

I know that this is a long email but please read to the bottom regarding important information regarding QECO Evaluations, Board Accounts and Lost Preparation Time.

Our first General Meeting of the year is on October 17, 2024 at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre. We will start with mingling at 4:30pm with the Business portion starting at 5:00pm sharp. Our Committee Chairs will be providing reports on their plans for this year and you can share your ideas. We will also be electing our new Collective Bargaining Committee. If you are interested in learning more about Collective Bargaining, this is a great opportunity. You can find the Nomination Form [here](#) and register for the event [here](#).

We have an Assessment Workshop which will be held virtually on October 24, 2024 from 4:30-6:30pm. To register for this event, please click [here](#). You can view the [flyer](#) for more information.

The last week of October will be a busy one! We have two exciting events for you! On Monday, October 28, we will be hosting our first Women's Program which will be a paint night located at the GEETF Office starting at 4:30pm. Please view the [flyer](#) for more information and to register. We will also be hosting a Pregnancy/Parental Leave Session on Wednesday, October 30, also at the GEETF Office starting at 4:30pm. Please see the [flyer](#) for more information and to register.

We will be hosting a Local Membership Meeting with Provincial on October 29, 2024. This meeting is in collaboration with all ETFO groups in Grand Erie and First Vice President David Mastin will be in attendance to hear about your concerns and experiences in the classroom. This is the opportunity for you to bring your concerns to the attention of our Provincial Executive. We will be providing mileage, parking (location dependent), childcare expenses and light refreshments. Once all of the details have been finalized, I will send out further information.

I am also working with Human Resources to clear up any lost preparation time from the last school year. If I have not contacted you and you have a record of lost preparation time from the 2023-2024 school year, please [contact me](#) as soon as possible. If your preparation time is reassigned this school year, please ensure that you complete the [lost prep time form](#). The form can also be found on

our [website](#).

I have also been receiving questions regarding E-tokens. These can be picked up from the TRC at Tollgate. Please use the [Self-Service Portal](#) to activate your E-token. If your E-token is damaged, you can trade it in for a new one at no charge. If you have been having issues logging into your Grand Erie accounts, please contact the [Local Office](#) for assistance.

QECO delays - if you are still awaiting your QECO Evaluation from last school year and had an LTO without your evaluation, please contact the [Local Office](#).

I hope to see you out at our upcoming events whether it be in-person or virtually. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

September 25, 2024

Good afternoon! I have been working with the Board since Monday to ensure that OTs can access PowerSchool since our link was removed with the new website update. I am happy to inform you that you can now access the link by logging into the Staff Portal>Applications>PowerSchool Login for Substitute Teachers. I will look into having Substitute changed to Occasional Teachers but for the time being, the link is now available and active. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office if you have any questions or concerns by phone at 519-427-6993 or via email.

September 20, 2024

I hope that you had an opportunity to enjoy some of the beautiful weather that we have been experiencing since the beginning of the school year. I am sending you a reminder to complete your Annual Training. Please see the [Memo](#) from the Board for more information. During our last round of negotiations, your Collective Bargaining Team was able to negotiate a Letter of Agreement with the Board to ensure that you are compensated for your time completing the Annual Training.

Required Health and Safety Training "Any required health and safety training is to be completed by September 30th of the current school year. New Occasional Teachers hired to the board must complete the training within thirty (30) workdays of their date of hire. The board will provide a half-day (0.5 FTE) pay to an Occasional Teacher who is not in a long-term assignment on the first PA Day of the school year, provided that the training is completed, and they work ten (10 FTE) days in the current school year. Payments will be issued by February 15th and by July 15th of each year. Time spent completing the health and safety training shall not count towards the days required to remain on the Occasional Teacher Roster."

Some tips & tricks for completing your training modules are to remember to click "I'm finished" once you complete the module. When viewing the video for AODA remember to increase the size of your screen and scroll down to find the "next" button. It is also helpful to click "show all" in your Power School Professional Learning in order to ensure that all modules have been completed.

Our Professional Learning Chair has developed a survey to better understand your interests for this school year. Please complete the [survey](#) by September 30, 2024 so that Professional Learning sessions can be scheduled.

We will be hosting our first General Meeting on October 17, 2024. More information will come out at the beginning of October when registration will open. We will also be calling for Nominations for our Collective Bargaining Committee. We are seeking up to four (4) Members who have an interest in Collective Bargaining to join us for the next round. If you are interested in joining our Collective Bargaining Committee, please complete the [Nomination Form](#) and submit it to gedsbot@outlook.com.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

September 4, 2024

Welcome to the new school year! I hope that you had a restful summer break. We are planning an eventful year for you with Professional Learning Opportunities as well as opportunities to gather with your colleagues in more social settings. If you have any suggestions for Professional Learning, please submit them to our Professional Learning Chair, Maryanne Goldsmith [here](#). Applications are being accepted for Professional Learning Funds. Please read the current [PL Fund Guidelines](#) which will be updated later this week at our first Executive Meeting of the school year. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Please ensure that you complete your Annual Health and Safety Training. This training can be found via the Staff Portal under Applications and Power School Professional Learning. You can view the Board Memo [here](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Also, ensure that after you complete each module that you click the "finished" tab so that it shows as complete.

Our new Collective Agreement is now available on our website as well as through the Staff Portal. The new Daily Rate for Elementary Occasional Teachers is \$271.60 + \$10.86 (4% vac pay) = \$282.46.

Important Dates

Fall General Meeting - October 17, 2024
Seasonal Social - December 4, 2024
Annual Meeting - May 21, 2025

We will also be hosting Zoom Check-ins throughout the year. these run for one hour and are drop-in based but you must register in advance when the link is sent out.

PA Days

September 13, 2024
October 8, 2024
November 15, 2024
January 20, 2025
April 11, 2025
June 6, 2025
June 27, 2025

Board Holidays

September 2, 2024
October 14, 2024
December 23-31, 2024
January 1-3, 2025
February 17, 2025
March 10-14, 2025
April 18, 2025
April 21, 2025
May 19, 2025

I would like to personally thank you for your dedication as an Elementary Occasional Teacher in Grand Erie. I cannot wait to see you at our upcoming events! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at our Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

Stay Safe and Healthy,
President Amanda

"United we stand, divided we fall." Aesop

A Message from OTIP

Starting the new school year off strong and supported



Welcome back to another school year! We hope you're feeling refreshed and inspired after the summer break. Now is an ideal time to reflect on your accomplishments and plan for the future, both personally and professionally. We want to reassure you that our team is committed to supporting your health, wellness, and financial security so you can thrive in your pivotal role within the education community. You may be most familiar with Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) as your group benefits provider, but did you know that we also offer personal insurance coverage?

Read on to learn more about what we're proud of at www.otip.com/article185.
#OTIPUpdate

As our way of saying thank you for getting an auto and/or home insurance quote, we'll send you a \$20 gift card of your choice. Plus, when you get a quote throughout September and October, you'll be automatically entered into our Back to School Bonus Contest for a chance to win \$1,000 cash! [Get an online quote](#) or call 1-888-892-4935 and mention this offer.