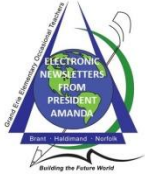


E-Newsletters from President Amanda



August 18, 2026

I hope that you have been having a great summer thus far! I just wanted to let you know that the September LTO Postings have started being posted. They are available on Apply to Education.

I also wanted to let you know that there are mass rallies occurring across Ontario on August 29, 2026. You can find the locations [here](#). These rallies are protesting the cuts that the Ford Government has made to Education since 2018. I encourage you to attend a location that is convenient and show support. The rallies are organized by the Ontario Education Coalition and the Fight Ford Protests. The following is a message from the Provincial Office - "We invite you and all ETFO members to attend the local action near you, bring your ETFO flag, and please help to promote this community protest. Every rally is an important opportunity to come together with parents and concerned residents to raise our voices and demand better for students in the public education system."

I hope that you have a great rest of your summer. This week, I along with Maryanne Goldsmith our VP and four other Local Members are attending the Provincial Annual Meeting. You can follow the meeting Blog through ETFO Secure (go to etfo.ca>member login>ETFO>Annual Meeting).

While the Local Office is still closed until September 2, 2026, I am checking emails and voicemails and will respond when time allows or when the Local Office re-opens. You can reach 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

September 2, 2026

Welcome back! Today was the first PA Day of this school year for anyone in a LTO. Whether you are in a LTO or are planning on working daily assignments, I wish you all the best as we start out this school year. I want to apologize in advance for the length of this email as I am providing a lot of start-up information including Annual Training and important dates for this school year. Professional

Learning Fund information will be sent out next week, after our first Executive Meeting.

Health and Safety

I want you to be aware that the deadline for your annual training is September 30. This is noted in our Collective Agreement and if you do complete your training prior to the deadline and have worked a minimum of 10 FTE, you will be compensated for a half day (0.5 FTE) pay on February 15. This training has been available since June 1, 2026. If you completed your training over the summer, please do not forget to check PowerSchool PL to ensure that no new courses have been added.

Please ensure that you are receiving a key when arriving at school so that you can lock your classroom door. This has been a requirement of our CA since 2012. It has been an ongoing issue in previous years and it is your responsibility to report lapses to the Local. Dates and locations are necessary in order to ensure that schools have enough keys.

I would also like to ensure that you are completing Incident Reports anytime that you experience a violent incident at work. This can be a student, a colleague or a visitor to the school.

Professional Learning

We are looking forward to providing you with some great PL opportunities this school year. If you have any suggestions, please complete this [google form](#) and we will attempt to provide that program.

OT Website

Did you know that ETFO has a website specifically for Occasional Teachers? You can access the website through ETFO Secure or by visiting this [link](#). You will be automatically redirected to ETFO Secure so please ensure that you have setup an account with ETFO Secure. If you do not, click the Register Today button on the redirect.

Please ensure that your personal information is up-to-date with [the Local](#) and with [ETFO Provincial](#). This is extremely important as we are in Bargaining this school year. Please ensure that you are providing a *personal email* address and cellular phone number if available. Please ensure that if you have recently married and have changed your last name, that you also provide this information.

We will be hosting our first Red for Ed Day of Action with all Education Affiliates on September 16, 2026. Please wear red as well as one of the "Smaller Classes, BIG DIFFERENCE" buttons or stickers on that day and participate in any photos or other actions that the school you are working in is hosting.

Important Dates

September 2, 2026 - PA Day
September 3, 2026 - PA Day
September 7, 2026 - Labour Day
September 30, 2026 - Deadline for Annual Training
October 6, 2026 - PA Day
October 12, 2026 - Thanksgiving
October 21, 2026 - General Meeting
November 20, 2026 - PA Day
November 18, 2026 - Zoom Check-In
December 9, 2026 - Seasonal Social
December 21 - December 31, 2026 - Winter Break
January 1, 2027 - Winter Break
January 13, 2027 - Zoom Check-In
January 22, 2027 - PA Day
February 15, 2027 - Family Day
March 15-19, 2027 - March Break
March 26, 2027 - Good Friday
March 29, 2027 - Easter Monday
April 14, 2027 - Zoom Check-In
May 24, 2027 - Victoria Day
May 19, 2027 - Annual General Meeting
June 11, 2027 - PA Day
June 30, 2027 - PA Day

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 11, 2026

Happy Friday! It has been a busy week with September start-up. I hope that you had a good first week in the classroom whether you are in a LTO or working daily assignments.

I have updated Membership information this week and have added some new Members to the Database and have updated information for all Members. If you need to make any changes to your contact information, please ensure that you also update your information with the [Local Office](#).

Your Executive had their first meeting of the school year and we have approved \$10,000 for Professional Learning Funding this school year. You can find the PL Funding Guidelines [here](#). PL Funding will remain at \$450/school year/member. The link to apply for PL Funding is embedded in the Guidelines. We have increased the Professional Resource Reimbursement to \$40/school year/member. You can find the information on the Professional

Resource Reimbursement [here](#).

Political Action

We will be holding our first Day of Action on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. We ask that you wear red and participate in any events (photos) that the school you are working in on that day has organized.

We are still encouraging everyone to wear red on Mondays and purple on Wednesdays to support our CUPE colleagues. You can view our poster [here](#). If you are curious as to why we wear red, you can find more information [here](#).

There is also a Rally being organized. You can find more information in the [ETFO Provincial Save the Date](#) email. The Rally will be on October 24, 2026 and will occur in various locations including London and Toronto.

Health and Safety

The Annual Training is available. You will be compensated for this training, in February, provided that you complete it prior to September 30. Please ensure that you have checked back if you completed your training prior to September to complete any additional training that the Ministry of Education has added to the list. To find the training, log into the Staff Portal > Quick Links > Professional Learning. Your courses (11 in total) will be displayed on the right hand side of the page.

Bargaining Bite

Our Local Letter of Agreement #2 is copied below.

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.

Provincial Bargaining has commenced. If you have not been receiving information regarding ETFO Provincial Bargaining updates, you can do so by ensuring your contact information is accurate [here](#).

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

September 18, 2026

This week has flown by with several virtual meetings, the Day of Action and our first Joint Occupational Health and Safety Meeting of the school year.

Our first General Meeting is fast approaching on October 21, 2026. This meeting will take place at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre with doors opening at 4:30pm with a business session and a buffet dinner to follow. We will be reviewing our Annual Budget and an update on Bargaining (if available) will occur. To register, click [here](#).

Reminder - You can find the PL Funding Guidelines [here](#). PL Funding will remain at \$450/school year/member. The link to apply for PL Funding is embedded in the Guidelines. We have increased the Professional Resource Reimbursement to \$40/school year/member. You can find the information on the Professional Resource Reimbursement [here](#).

ETFO Provincial also offers Professional Learning experiences. To find out more about ETFO AQs (which qualify for PL Funding) please click [here](#). ETFO Provincial has several upcoming conferences, click on the topic for more information - [Artificial Intelligence](#), [Kindergarten](#) and [FSL](#).

Political Action



Photo from Branlyn Community & Notre Dame Catholic Elementary Schools with representation from all Affiliates and Local Leaders.

We held our first Provincial Day of Action on September 16, 2026. Thank you to those of you who participated. Your Solidarity does not go unnoticed!

We are still encouraging everyone to wear red on Mondays and purple on Wednesdays to support our CUPE colleagues. You can view our poster [here](#). If you are curious as to why we wear red, you can find more information [here](#).

There is also a Rally being organized. You can find more information in the [ETFO Provincial Save the Date](#) email. The Rally will be on October 24, 2026 and will occur in various locations including London and Toronto.

Health and Safety

Important Update for Annual H&S Training - there are 8 required training sessions this school year. Please disregard the WHMIS Training. This populated independently and is not required. Please see the Memo [here](#) which outlines the required training which must be completed by September 30, 2026. I am also including the list below.

Workplace Violence Reporting
Slips, Trips and Falls
Workplace Harassment Reporting Steps
Work Refusal Process
De-Escalation Training
Student Health Management
Ladder Awareness
Asbestos Awareness for School Staff

I confirmed this information with Lena Latrielle, Manager of Health and Safety, yesterday at the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Meeting.

The Ontario Federation of Labour has organized a conference for Injured and Ill Workers. You can find more information regarding this conference and register [here](#). The conference will take place on October 1, 2026.

Bargaining Bite

13.01 - Working Conditions

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.

It is so important, especially during bargaining, that we are ensuring that the Board is following our Collective Agreement. Please ensure that you are receiving all information and resources (technology) for your assignment. Access to the above bargained information and resources will aid in your success in any assignment on any given day. If you do not have access to the above information or resources, please speak to the Administrator as it is their responsibility to ensure that this information is available in all classrooms in their school. It is your right to have access to Safety Plans for students in your care in order to ensure that you can work safely in your assignment.

Provincial Bargaining has commenced. If you have not been receiving information regarding ETFO Provincial Bargaining updates, you can do so by ensuring your contact information is accurate [here](#). ETFO Provincial has announced Central Strike Vote dates - November 8-18, 2026. Voting will take place online. To read the ETFO CB eNewsletter click [here](#).

If you need to make any changes to your contact information, please ensure that you also update your information with the [Local Office](#).

Are you considering retiring or starting to plan for retirement? OTIP is hosting a retirement workshop on November 25, 2026 at the Brantford Golf and Country Club. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

September 25, 2026

Happy Friday! This week, I attended POTs - a meeting of Occasional Teacher Presidents from across Ontario. POTs meets twice per school year, once in the fall and once in the spring. We use this time to collaborate and discuss issues that impact Occasional Teachers across the Province. Occasional Teacher Locals take turns hosting and this meeting was hosted by Blue Water and was held in Owen Sound.

Our first General Meeting is fast approaching on October 21, 2026. This meeting will take place at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre with doors opening at 4:30pm with a business session and a buffet dinner to follow. We will be reviewing our Annual Budget and an update on Bargaining (if

available) will occur. To register, click [here](#).

Political Action

The federal government has introduced changes to labour laws that would give it new and expanded powers to intervene and shut down legal strikes in bill C-39. Next week Parliament is not sitting. Debate would continue on October 5. Sources tell us that it's quite likely that the government would force an end to debate on that day and schedule a vote on the second reading of the bill as early as October 6 or 7.

The government is moving much faster than expected to enshrine its authority to end legal strikes, and we need to move quickly too. Here are urgent actions you can take:

[Share the MP letter action](#) through email, social media, and your organizing networks.

Click here for the [QR Code](#) that will take you directly to the action:

- Text RIGHTS to 55255

Weakening the right to strike federally could set a dangerous precedent for workers provincially.

Doug Ford says Ontarians shouldn't be buying products from the U.S.

So why is Ford's government funneling \$66 million in Ontario education funding to a U.S. company for classroom supplies?

That doesn't add up.

The decision to select Staples to provide school supplies for Ontario public schools continues the Ford government's broader pattern of privatization, centralization and the erosion of public services.

Doug Ford says that when something is going sideways, Ontarians should give him a call. So let's take him up on it.

Call Doug Ford. Tell him Ontario's education dollars should support Ontario communities — not U.S. profits — and be available to all educators. 416-325-7635

View the Building Better Schools Video [here](#).

We are still encouraging everyone to wear red on Mondays and purple on Wednesdays to support our CUPE colleagues. You can view our poster [here](#). If you are curious as to why we wear red, you can find more information [here](#).

Together for Public Education Rallies have been organized for October 24, 2026. Power is in numbers and we encourage you to attend one of the upcoming rallies.

ETFO members will join AEFO, EWAO-ATEO, OECTA, OCEW, OPSEU, OSBCU-CUPE, OSSTF, and concerned citizens from across the province at five regional rallies in Ottawa, London, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Toronto. These rallies are a chance to put pressure on the Ford Government to properly invest in public education and show the unity of teachers and education workers across Ontario. Power in bargaining is demonstrated by unity and visibility, showing that the public is on our side. To register your attendance and save a seat on the bus, please click [here](#).

Professional Learning

*Dear Fellow Grand Erie Occasional Teachers,
I'm your Professional Learning Chair, Karin Terry. I'm asking you to complete a short [survey](#) to help me gain an understanding of members' preferences for professional development. I will use the information to help make decisions on the different workshops we do this year. There are a total of 9 questions on two pages. Please ensure you hit submit at the end of the questionnaire on the second page.*

Health and Safety

Our Letter of Agreement #5 in the Central portion of our Agreement states -

RE: Occasional Teacher Ability to Lock the Classroom Door

School Boards will continue to ensure that Occasional Teachers have the ability to lock and unlock the classroom door.

While this Letter of Agreement has been in place since 2012, we still hear reports of Daily Occasional Teachers not receiving keys. It is imperative that you reach out to the Local Office when you do not receive a key to lock your classroom door when you sign in at the office. Please complete this [form](#) if you have not received a key for your classroom door when you have reported to work.

Bargaining Bite

C2.5 “Professional Judgement” shall be defined as judgement that is informed by professional knowledge of curriculum expectations, context, evidence of learning, methods of instruction and assessment, and the criteria and standards that indicate success in student learning. In professional practice, judgement involves a purposeful and systematic thinking process that evolves in terms of accuracy and insight with ongoing reflection and self-correction.

C9.00 DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

a) For the purposes of C9.00, the term “Teachers” shall include Occasional Teachers.

b) Teachers shall use their professional judgement as defined in C2.5 above. The Parties agree that a Teacher’s professional judgement is the cornerstone of assessment and evaluation.

c) Teachers’ professional judgement is further informed by using diagnostic assessment to identify a student’s needs and abilities and the student’s readiness to acquire the knowledge and skills outlined in the curriculum expectations. Information from diagnostic assessments helps Teachers determine where individual students are in their acquisition of knowledge and skills so that instruction is personalized and tailored to the appropriate next steps for learning. The ability to choose the appropriate assessment tool(s), as well as the frequency and timing of their administration allows the Teacher to gather data that is relevant, sufficient and valid in order to make judgements on student learning during the learning cycle.

i) Boards shall provide a list of pre-approved assessment tools consistent with their Board improvement plan for student achievement and the Ministry PPM.

ii) Teachers shall use their professional judgment to determine which assessment and/or evaluation tool(s) from the Board list of preapproved assessment tools is applicable, for which student(s), as well as the frequency and timing of the tool. In order to inform their instruction, Teachers must utilize diagnostic assessment during the school year.

d) The results of diagnostic assessments shall not be used in any way in evaluating Teachers. No Teacher shall suffer discipline or discharge as a consequence of any diagnostic assessment results.

ETFO Provincial has created the following documents on [Professional Judgement](#) and [Pedagogy and Professional Judgement](#) to support those of you

in LTOs during the process of conducting diagnostics.

Provincial Bargaining has commenced. If you have not been receiving information regarding ETFO Provincial Bargaining updates, you can do so by ensuring your contact information is accurate [here](#). ETFO Provincial has announced Central Strike Vote dates - November 8-18, 2026. Voting will take place online. To read the ETFO CB eNewsletter click [here](#).

If you need to make any changes to your contact information, please ensure that you also update your information with the [Local Office](#).

October 2, 2026

I cannot believe it is October! This week five Members of your Executive attended Leadership. Leadership focuses on specific areas including Political Action, Professional Learning, Social Justice and Equity as well as Status of Women. A selection of workshops are offered for Local Presidents. I attended three different workshops one regarding unsuccessful appraisals and two surrounding Collective Bargaining - enforcing our Collective Agreement and Negotiation psychology. The last two are particularly timely as we enter into Local Bargaining.

Call Hub - the Local will be utilizing Call Hub this school year. You will receive text messages and/or phone calls from the following numbers related to our account 519-900-5253 (text) and 226-829-5266 (phone calls). *Please note that you are able to opt out once you receive a message but I would encourage you to respond to our messaging.* Messaging will include important updates on upcoming meetings, votes and events during this round of Collective Bargaining.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our first General Meeting on October 21, 2026. This meeting will take place at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre with doors opening at 4:30pm with a business session and a buffet dinner to follow. We will be reviewing our Annual Budget and an update on Bargaining (if available) will occur. To register, click [here](#).

Political Action

We have decided to change our weekly day of action and are now encouraging everyone to wear red on Wednesdays. If you are curious as to why we wear red, you can find more information [here](#).

Together for Public Education Rallies have been organized for October 24, 2026. Power is in numbers and we encourage you to attend one of the upcoming rallies. You can bring your family and/or friends on the bus too!

ETFO members will join AEFO, EWAO-ATEO, OECTA, OCEW, OPSEU, OSBCU-CUPE, OSSTF, and concerned citizens from across the province at five regional rallies in Ottawa, London, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Toronto. These rallies are a chance to put pressure on the Ford Government to properly invest in public education and show the unity of teachers and education workers across Ontario. Power in bargaining is demonstrated by unity and visibility, showing that the public is on our side. To register your attendance and save a seat on the bus, please click [here](#). You can find FAQs regarding the rally [here](#). The Provincial Office is asking Members to change their profile photo on their personal social media to one of the images in this [dropbox](#). You can also use the other images for making signs and/or other media for the event.

Professional Learning

Please do not forget to complete the Professional Learning [Survey](#). This survey will aid in the planning of our Professional Learning that is offered this school year. Thank you!

Health and Safety

Have you ever heard of the Internal Responsibility System, also referred to as the IRS. According to the IRS, a worker must complete any paperwork for Workplace Violence and report to their Administrator. If they do not feel that their Administrator is providing adequate support, they can then reach out further - to the Union. The Local will then provide advise on next steps. Did you know that a Safety Plan needs to be reviewed after every serious incident? If you have to evacuate your classroom, there needs to be a review of the Safety Plan - what worked well, what needs to change. Please reach out to the [Local Office](#) if you require support. Even if you experience a near miss (something thrown but does not make contact) you must complete the Workplace Violence and Safe Schools Report. Not sure when to report? See the Board's [Procedure HS-002](#).

Collective Bargaining

Provincial Bargaining has commenced. If you have not been receiving information regarding ETFO Provincial Bargaining updates, you can do so by ensuring your contact information is accurate [here](#). ETFO Provincial has announced Central Strike Vote dates - November 8-18, 2026. Voting will take place online. To read the ETFO CB eNewsletter click [here](#).

If you need to make any changes to your contact information, please ensure that you also update your information with the [Local Office](#).