



## [E-Newsletters from President Amanda](#)

**March 10, 2023**

### **Upcoming Events & Reminders**

We have exciting events coming up over the break and afterwards. We have two upcoming Free Public Skates, one hosted by the DECE Local as well as one hosted by our Local. The first skate is being hosted in Waterford on March 13, 2023 from 12:30-1:30pm. On March 16, 2023, our Local Sponsored Public Skate will be hosted from 3:00-4:00pm at the Brant Sports Complex in Paris.

The Grand Erie Teachers' Federation, one of our Sister Locals, has opened registration to "More than A Play," to our Members. The registration deadline is tomorrow, March 10, 2023 and there are limited spaces available. If you are interested in registering, please click the button below.

[More Than A Play](#)

The Board is also offering select Spring AQs through Lakehead. Please watch your Educator's News which comes out on Wednesdays for more information.

[Lakehead AQs](#)

I would also like to wish you a safe and healthy March Break. I hope that you are able to take time for yourself and enjoy time with those you love. I will also be taking a break next week and as such the Local Office will be closed from 4:30pm on March 10, 2023 until 8:00am on March 20, 2023. Non-urgent emails and telephone messages can be left and will be returned after the break. The Local Office can be reached at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#). If you have an urgent matter arise during the break, please contact the ETFO Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836. I look forward to seeing you out and about in the community and at our upcoming events during and after the break.

## **March 3, 2023**

**Happy Friday! Please be sure to travel safely in the winter weather that we are to be receiving this afternoon. I have a few updates and reminders for you today.**

**First of all, to our Retired Members, the increase in days has been announced. Retired Members are now able to work 95 days until June 30, 2023. You can find the notice [here](#).**

**The second item is an update with our March Break Public Skate. You can view the flyer [here](#). We are hosting a Public Skate at the Brant Sport Complex in Paris on March 16, 2023 from 3:00-4:00pm. In addition to our Public Skate, the DECE Local is hosting a Public Skate in Waterford on March 13, 2023 from 12:30-1:30pm. You can find their flyer [here](#).**

**The third reminder is that you need to complete the Provincial All Member Workplace Violence Survey. The survey is open until March 8, 2023. Please ensure that you complete it. I have attached information on completing the survey [here](#).**

**I will be sending out two additional emails today. The first email will be the Central Bargaining Bulletin #6 and the second email will only go to those Members who have been identified as completing their Mandatory Annual Health and Safety Training prior to December 31, 2022 and who were active Members, not in LTOs, on September 1, 2022. Please watch out for these emails.**

**At our Executive Meeting last night, we approved a donation of \$250 to support the Humanitarian Relief Efforts in Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquakes that they have been experiencing.**

**I hope that you have a safe and restful weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at the Local Office by phone at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).**

## **February 24, 2023**

It is hard to believe that February is almost over and at this time next week we will be one week away from March Break! I hope that this email finds you safe and healthy. We have been working hard organizing events for you as well as some for you and your family and the community. During the March Break, we will be hosting a Public Skate, on the 16th, more details to follow. On May 6 we will be hosting a family movie event at the Strand in Simcoe. The movie is Guardians of the Galaxy 3 and the doors will open at 9:30am with the movie starting at 10:00am. We are also looking forward to seeing you and sharing a meal at our Local

Annual Meeting on May 15 at 4:30pm at the Best Western in Brantford. I do have an update regarding the half-day paid Health and Safety Training. The Local will be compensating Members who were active on the Roster on September 1, 2022 and not on an LTO and completed your training prior to December 31, 2022, you will be compensated for a half-day that will be allocated to Family Day - February 20, 2023.

Reminder - please ensure that your availability is up to date in ADS. If you are unavailable, please make yourself unavailable in the system. You are required to complete a minimum of seven (7) FTE (full-time equivalent) assignments between February 1 - June 30 and a minimum of twenty (20) FTE assignments overall from September 1 - June 30 to remain on the Roster.

We have a Provincial Town Hall call on March 2 at 8:00pm to update the Membership on Central Collective Bargaining. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date with the Provincial Office by emailing [memberrecords@etfo.org](mailto:memberrecords@etfo.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at 519-427-6993 or by email at the link at the bottom of the page. Links for our website, Twitter and Facebook are all below.

### **February 23, 2023**

**Due to the inclement weather and poor road conditions, all Zones are closed today, February 23, 2023. If you are a Daily OT, your assignment is cancelled and you will not be compensated. If you are currently completing your first nine (9) days towards an LTO, your assignment will not be negatively impacted.**

### **February 7, 2023**

I have been receiving many questions regarding compensation for the Annual Health and Safety Training. The Local will be providing a half day compensation for all daily Occasional Teachers who were active on the Roster on September 1, 2022, and were not in a long-term assignment. I am awaiting confirmation from the Board regarding a date that this training will be attached to, as such, I will reach out to those Members who are eligible for this compensation when everything is finalized.

We have been invited to join GEETF in two events that they have organized. One is for

Members in their [first five years](#) and the other is a [Women's Only Program](#). Please see the flyers attached to the links above. There is a fee to attend these events which is payable to the Grand Erie Elementary Teachers' Federation. Please use the information on the flyers if you require assistance.

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

### **February 3, 2023**

I am very pleased to inform you that the Local and the Board have signed off on an agreement regarding lost preparation time for Daily Occasional Teachers. This agreement ensures that whenever a Daily OT misses a preparation time when covering for a teacher who has a regularly scheduled preparation time, that they will be paid back this time in one of two ways:

1. If, during the same school year, the Occasional Teacher receives a subsequent assignment at the same school where they had previously missed preparation time(s), the Board will re-schedule the missed preparation time(s) at a date and time during the subsequent assignment.
2. If the Board is unable to reschedule the Occasional Teacher's preparation time(s) (e.g., the Occasional Teacher does not receive a subsequent assignment at the same school, then the Board shall provide the Occasional Teacher with an amount equivalent to the missed preparation time(s) at the applicable normal daily rate based on a 300-minute instructional day together with a detailed accounting as to the reason and calculation of the payment. The compensation for missed preparation time will be paid as a lump sum. The lump sum payment will be processed no later than June 30 of the same school year during which the preparation time(s) was missed.

There is also a clause that provides information on Occasional Teachers who leave the employment of Grand Erie, see below:

“Occasional Teachers who have missed preparation time(s) and who cease active employment with the Board prior to June 30th, and who have not received rescheduled preparation time as set out in paragraph above or been compensated as set out in paragraph (b) above, will be compensated at the time of their departure at the normal daily grid rate.”

I am still working with Provincial and the Board on some intricacies of the settlement and I will provide more information when it becomes available. In the meantime, please track any lost

time.

Did you know that all Occasional Teachers have access to the Board's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). If you need more information or to find out if you are covered for a service, please view this [brochure](#).

I would also like to remind you that you should be shown a Notification of Risk Binder when you arrive at a site. This binder is available in the office and indicates areas in the school where you could encounter students with a history of violence. There are also areas that are marked in red which you should not enter unless if you are teaching in that class. If you are teaching in an area that is red, you may require Personal Protective Equipment. This PPE should be given to you along with instructions on how to use it properly. You should also be informed of any safety plans in your assigned class(es) as well as a list of triggers in order to avoid any potential violent incidents while you are teaching.

One last reminder is that you should always be given a key to lock your classroom door and your assignment should never be changed upon arrival unless if it is a matter of student safety due to an unfilled assignment. Please report these things to me. It is so important that your rights under the Collective Agreement are honoured. I can be reached via [email](#) or by phone at 519-427-6993.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

President Amanda

*"United we stand, divided we fall." Aesop*

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### ***An Important Message from ETFO Provincial***

ETFO Provincial is completing an All Member Workplace Violence Survey. The Survey will commence on February 8, 2023 and conclude on March 8, 2023. Members may be contacted via email or phone. Members will be asked if they would like to participate in a Focus Group. The purpose of this survey is to:

- raise awareness of the issue of violence in schools within the general public;
- highlight the government's failures in addressing workplace violence in schools;
- provide data for ETFO to advocate for improvements locally and provincially; and

- help develop member resources and programs aimed at empowering members to assert their health and safety rights when faced with violence at work.
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### *A Message from OTIP*



Access free online mental health resources. As a part of the Ontario Education Community, you have access to FeelingBetterNow, an e-mental health platform for assessment and treatment. This platform uses evidence-based e-mental health technologies to help you improve your mental health, allowing you to confidentially identify mental health issues early and take immediate action. Learn more by watching this [FeelingBetterNow](#) informational video and sign up for your confidential and anonymous account at <https://www.feelingbetternow.com/otip>.

### **January 9, 2023**

I hope that you had a restful break and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. If you enjoyed our Winter Public Skate, I am pleased to inform you that we will be holding a second skating event during March Break. We will be having our second Zoom Check-In on January 19, 2023 at 7:00pm. You can register for the Zoom Check-In [here](#).

The Board is also offering AQ Courses through Lakehead. If you are interested in

enrolling in an AQ Course through Lakehead, you can view the flyer [here](#). If you are interested in enrolling in an AQ Course or other Professional Learning Program, you can access up to \$450 through the Local Professional Learning Resource Fund. You can find out more about our Local Professional Learning Funds by viewing the [PL Fund Guidelines](#).

I would also like to give you a friendly reminder that you should have completed a minimum of eight (8) FTE assignments prior to the end of January to remain on the Roster. If you have not completed a minimum of eight (8) FTE assignments, the Board can remove you from the Roster as of February 1. For further information regarding the minimum number of days to remain on the Roster and other important information, you can view our Collective Agreement [here](#). The minimum number of days information can be found at the bottom of page 39 and the top of page 40.

On behalf of your Local Executive, I would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next event! Please do not hesitate to contact the Local Office with any questions or concerns. 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*

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***A Message from OTIP***



*Start the new year off right with ways to save on your home and auto insurance*

The price you pay for insurance can vary by hundreds of dollars, so how can you get the best value for your money? Here are 10 ways you may be eligible to save on your home and auto insurance and start your new year off right.

Read more at [www.otip.com/article158](http://www.otip.com/article158).

**December 23, 2022**

I apologize for two emails in one day but as predicted, the Board has decided to close all Grand Erie School sites on December 23, 2022. If you are a Daily OT, you will not be compensated for tomorrow. If you are currently completing your first nine (9) days towards an LTO, your assignment will not be negatively impacted. I wish you all a safe and healthy Winter Break.

President Amanda

**December 22, 2022**

**Happy Thursday! I just wanted to remind you to read your GEDSB Trending Emails. The one that was sent out yesterday issued a warning that Friday could possibly be our second snow day this school year. Information on AQ Course**



**Subsidies from the Board and other important information can be found in the weekly Trending updates as well as Health and Safety information. These emails are distributed on Wednesdays via your Board email address.**

**This is also a gentle reminder that the Local Office will be closed for Winter Break starting December 23, 2022 at 4:00pm and will reopen on January 9, 2023 at 8:00am. You may leave a voicemail at 519-427-6993, these will be checked and returned as soon as possible on or after January 9, 2023. If you have an urgent matter, call the ETFO Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836. You may also [email](#) the Local Office and emails will be returned upon my return on January 9, 2023.**

**I wish you all a restful, Winter Break and hope that you are able to spend some quality time with your loved ones.**

**Stay Safe and Healthy,  
President Amanda**