



E-Newsletters from President Amanda

April 22, 2024

I would like to welcome our new Members to the Email Database. I hope that you are enjoying working in Grand Erie as an Elementary Occasional Teacher.

Nominations have opened for our upcoming Elections for the 2024-2026 Local Executive. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Local Office. The following positions are open for Elections at our upcoming Annual Meeting and Elections on May 22, 2024 which will be held at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre.

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Collective Bargaining Chair
Professional Learning
Political Action
Social Justice & Equity/Status of Women
Health and Safety
Goodwill
Constitution Chair
Website

The Nomination Form can be found [here](#). To register for our Annual Meeting and Elections, please either visit our website or click [here](#). In addition to the Elections, we will share information regarding our upcoming Annual Budget in Principle as well as allow time for mingling and we will provide a buffet dinner.

The Board has finalized the payment dates for the Bill 124 Retro-payments. You can find the full list and the Boards' FAQs [here](#). Occasional Elementary Teachers in Grand Erie will receive their payments on May 15, 2024. The payment will be shown on it's own line on your regular pay. The payment will be one lump sum for the 2019-2022 school years plus the pay increase to date. Following this payment, the new daily rate and grid rates will be in effect.

You should have received an email from ETFO Provincial last week regarding the Arbitration Hearing that occurred on April 17, 2024. Arbitrator Kaplan heard both submissions and will provide his decision within 60 days. You can access the ETFO CB eNewsletter [here](#). The FAQ can be found [here](#).

I hope that you have a good week and consider running for the Local Executive if

you have an interest in any of the open positions. Many of you may have some skills that can be used and we would love to have you on the Local Executive. These positions are compensated at grid rate and do include release time which counts towards your days worked with the Board. Please consider running.

April 8, 2024

Can you believe that it's the second week of April!? And Solar Eclipse Day! I hope that you are taking proper precautions if you are planning on viewing the Eclipse today. We have some upcoming events with space remaining and I hope that you are able to attend. I am also including the updated Daily Rates and Grid Rates which will start once the Retro-payments are made.

Retro-payments will be made prior to the June 8, 2024 deadline which for OTs in Grand Erie will occur on or prior to the May 31, 2024 pay date. The new rates will take effect following the retro-payment. The new Daily Rate can be found [here](#). The new Grid Rates can be found [here](#). If you are interested in an approximate Remedy payout, you can use this [spreadsheet](#) to estimate your payout.

Upcoming events -

Zoom Check-In April 10, 2024 at 7:00pm register [here](#)

Kegels, Cocktails and Purses - April 11, 2024 at 5:00pm register [here](#). There is a cost to this event please see the [flyer](#) (note that this event is for Members who identify as female).

Our final event is the Special Education Workshop on April 23, 2024. This event will take place at the GEETF Office starting at 4:30pm. To view the flyer, click [here](#) and you can register [here](#).

Please also save the date for our Annual Meeting and Elections on May 22, 2024 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](#).

March 28, 2024

I hope that you have had a good week! I have a few reminders about upcoming events that I would like to share. We have our [Special Education Workshop](#) coming up on April 23, 2024 at 4:30pm in Brantford at the GEETF Local Office. To

register, please click [here](#).

GEETF is hosting an event for Members who identify as female in honour of International Women's Day. The event is "Kegels, Cocktails and Purses" and will be hosted in Delhi at Capitol 33 from 5:00-9:00pm on April 11, 2024. For more information, please see the [flyer](#) and click [here](#) to register.

We also have an upcoming Zoom Check-In which is an optional event and will occur on April 10, 2024 at 7:00-8:00pm. To register for the Zoom Check-In, please click [here](#).

I do hope that you have time this weekend to relax and unwind. The Local Office will remain closed until Tuesday, April 2, 2024 for the long weekend. If you have any urgent matters, please contact the Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836.

[February 28, 2024](#)

Tax season is upon us and T4s are now ready! Sign into the Staff Portal, select Paystubs and sign into your account. On the lefthand side, you will find T4s and you can now select 2023.

I would also like to remind those of you who were not in an LTO between January 8-15, 2024 that you must pay your 2024 OCT Fees. Only OTs in LTOs between January 8-15, 2024 would have had the amount deducted from their January 31, 2024 pay. You have until April 17, 2024 to make the \$200 payment to OCT. The April 17, 2024 deadline is the last day that you can pay without having to pay a reinstatement fee of \$130. There are no exceptions, please do not wait until the last minute to pay your fees.

I would also like to remind you of our upcoming Ratification Vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. You can register [here](#) for the Zoom Information Meeting and Vote which will be held during the online meeting.

[February 23, 2024](#)

Happy Friday!! I hope that your short week treated you well. I am sending out a reminder that our Ratification Vote is being held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 via Zoom at 6:00pm. You must [register](#) for this meeting in order to join and cast your vote.

We have a host of events coming up over the next two months. I will list them below and if necessary the registration links can be accessed by clicking on the

event.

March

Free Public Skate - March 13 Brant Sports Complex @ 3:30pm-4:30pm; no registration required

[Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop](#)- March 18 in Hamilton

[Learning in the Early Years](#) - March 19 at Talbot Gardens in Simcoe

April

[Women in Action Part 1](#) - April 11-13 in Waterloo

Specialized Education Workshop - April 23 (more information to follow in March)

We will also be hosting our Local Annual Meeting and Elections on Wednesday, May 23, 2024. I hope to see you out at one of our many upcoming events!

[January 30, 2024](#)

I am happy to inform you, on behalf of your Local Collective Bargaining Team, that we have signed off on a Local Tentative Agreement. We will be holding a Ratification Meeting and Vote via Zoom where you will hear the details and be able to ask questions of your Local Bargaining Team. Information will be forthcoming after the Local Executive has had an opportunity to review and discuss the Local Tentative Agreement. I would like to thank our Local Collective Bargaining Committee - Corey Maxted, Maryanne Goldsmith and our Provincial Collective Bargaining Officer Pam Dogra for all of their hard work.

[January 12, 2024](#)

I hope that your first week back to school went well. We had our first Professional Learning Workshop this past week and have some exciting Professional Learning opportunities coming up in the next few months. On January 31, 2024, we will be hosting Classroom Management for Occasional Teachers. This event will be held at the GEETF Office on Dalkeith Drive in Brantford with dinner starting at 4:00pm. To register for this event, click [here](#). If you have registered and are unable to attend please [contact](#) our Professional Learning Chair Maryanne Goldsmith. Other upcoming Professional Learning opportunities will include Learning in the Early Years with our DECE Local and Supporting Students with a Tiered Response, Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction as well as a Pregnancy and Parental Leave workshop with the Hamilton Wentworth Occasional Teacher Local which will be held in Hamilton on March 18, 2024. More information and links will be sent out closer to the event dates.

We also have a Zoom Check-In coming up on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at

7:00pm. If you have any questions or would just like to pop online and meet the Executive, please register [here](#).

[January 8, 2024](#)

Welcome Back! I hope that you had a restful and rejuvenating Winter Break. We have two upcoming Professional Learning opportunities for you. The first one is "Flourish with French" which will be held virtually on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 via Zoom. The workshop will start at 4:30pm. To register please click [here](#). You will receive a resource which will be mailed out after the workshop. The second workshop is "Classroom Management for Occasional Teachers." This workshop will be hosted in person at the GEETF Office at 49 Dalkieth Drive Units 1&2 in Brantford on January 31, 2024 with dinner starting at 4:00pm. To register for this workshop, please click [here](#).

Also a reminder that we do have a Local Professional Learning Fund that can be used by Members to access personal professional learning such as AQ Courses and Conferences. You can access up to \$450/school year. We also have a Professional Resource Subsidy for \$35/Member/school year. You can find the applications for these two subsidies as well as the Funding Guidelines on our [website](#) under Professional Learning and Forms.

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](#).

[December 22, 2023](#)

I would like to take a moment to thank you for all of your hard work with our students. The start of this school year has been very challenging for many with behaviour issues in many classrooms. You have made it to the Winter Break! I will be providing information below on our upcoming events but I would like to let you know that the Local Office will be closed from December 22, 2023 at 4:00pm until January 8, 2024 at 8:00am. Emails will be checked intermittently as such, if you require immediate assistance, please contact the Provincial Office at 1-888-838-3836. I hope that you take the next couple of weeks to recharge and spend time with your loved ones.

Upcoming Events -

Skating at Brant Sports Complex on January 3, 2024 from 10:00-11:00am to view the flyer, click [here](#).

Flourish with French on January 10, 2024 starting at 4:30pm - this will be a virtual Professional Learning Event to register click [here](#). Please note that this workshop will

include a resource which will be mailed to participants after the workshop.

Classroom Management for OTs on January 31, 2024 with dinner starting at 4:00pm and the workshop starting at 4:30pm. To register for this event, click [here](#).

[December 12, 2023](#)

We have two workshops coming up in January. The first one is Flourish with French and will be held virtually via Zoom. To register for the French Workshop please click this [link](#). This workshop will be held on January 10, 2024 starting at 4:30pm. The second workshop will be held on January 31, 2024 and will be the first of two Classroom Management Workshops. The second date is not yet set. To register for the Classroom Management Workshop, please click [here](#). This workshop will be held in person at the GEETF Office in Brantford with dinner being served starting at 4:00pm. If you have any questions regarding these workshops, please contact our PL Chair, Maryanne, via [email](#).

I would also encourage you to complete an up to date [QECO Rating](#) if you have not already done so. Your QECO Rating will increase your grid placement when you are in an LTO. If you have no QECO Rating on file with the Board, you will be placed at "A" (starting at \$44,321) on the grid when most Elementary Teachers, once rated, are actually placed at "A3" (starting at \$57,668). Your daily teaching experience is calculated in order to ensure that you are placed accurately on the grid. Even if you think that you will never accept an LTO and enjoy daily work, it is strongly recommended that you submit a QECO Rating to the Board as you could fall into an LTO at anytime. An LTO is an assignment of nine (9) consecutive days covering the same assignment.

If you are considering enrolling in an AQ Course or other personal professional learning, you can apply for up to \$450/year. You can find the information on our website (link at bottom of email) under Professional Learning and Forms.

[December 8, 2023](#)

Teacher/Occasional Teacher Tentative Central Agreement Town Hall Information Meetings:

On Monday, December 11, ETFO will be holding two town hall information meetings to review the terms of the Teacher/Occasional Teacher Tentative Central Agreement and answer members' questions. The first town hall meeting takes place from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm EST. Grand Erie has been assigned the first call out time. If you are an OT with multiple Locals, you can view the call that

they have been assigned to if you are unable to attend the 6:30-7:30pm slot. Teacher and occasional teacher (T/OT) members will have an opportunity to listen in on one of these meetings.

Each local has been assigned a town hall time slot. The times are listed at the bottom of this CB eNewsletter, or you can see them [here](#).

Connecting to Your Town Hall Meeting: By Telephone

A few minutes before the start of your town hall meeting, you will receive a phone call from ETFO inviting you to join. The phone number that will call you to join the town hall is 416-800-9227. This phone call will go to the telephone number on file with ETFO's Member Records Department as of noon on Friday, December 8, 2023.

If you miss the call, ETFO will leave a voicemail message providing you with a callback number and a confidential PIN to join the meeting.

To update your phone number with ETFO Member Records, please contact them at memberrecords@etfo.org no later than noon on Friday, December 8, 2023. You can also connect with Member Records by calling 1-888-838-3836, ext 3806.

Connecting to Your Town Hall Meeting: Online

At approximately 3:00 pm (EST) on Monday, December 11, members who have provided ETFO with their email address will receive a CB eNewsletter with a link (URL) to their allocated town hall meeting. This link will allow members to connect to their town hall online from a laptop or mobile device (cell phone, iPad, etc.).

This online link is being sent to ensure as many members as possible are able to connect to the meeting if, for some reason, they do not receive a phone call inviting them to their town hall or are not able to connect by phone.

Because online connections tend to be more robust than telephone systems, ETFO strongly encourages as many members as possible to watch for the CB eNewsletter sent at approximately 3:00 pm on Monday, December 11 and use the information in that CB eNewsletter to connect to their town hall online (rather than by phone) a couple of minutes before the meeting starts.

Town Hall Meetings: Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any questions about the town hall meeting, please review our town hall meeting [FAQs](#).

You can also contact ETFO Collective Bargaining Communications here if you

have questions that are not addressed in the [FAQs](#).

T/OT Tentative Central Agreement Ratification Vote - Monday, December 11 to Friday, December 15

At the conclusion of the telephone town hall meeting, the ratification vote for the 2022-2026 T/OT Tentative Central Agreement will begin. All members will be sent a link to the voting site by CB eNewsletter. The voting site link will also be available on the ETFO Collective Bargaining website. Voting will begin at approximately 9:00 p.m. (EST) on December 11 and will end at 8:00 p.m. (EST) on December 15. More information about the ratification process is available [here](#).

Please ensure that you are available to participate in the Town Hall Call and please do not forget to vote on the Tentative Central Agreement.

IMPORTANT NOTE

In order to participate in the tentative central agreement ratification vote, teacher and occasional teacher members must be active members.

Teacher and occasional teacher members who are unsure about their status (i.e., active/inactive) should contact Member Records by noon on Friday, December 8.

[December 5, 2023](#)

I hope that your week is going well, the countdown to Winter Break is on! We are hosting our Annual Seasonal Social tomorrow, December 6, 2023 at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre. The event starts at 4:30pm and will be filled with games and prizes as well as a buffet style dinner. I hope to see you there!

On Monday, December 11, 2023 we will be having our Town Hall call with the Provincial ETFO Collective Bargaining Team to discuss the Tentative Central Agreement. If you do not have your information up to date with the Provincial Office, please email memberrecords@etfo.org.

We will be hosting a free skate at the Brant Sports Complex on January 3, 2024 from 10-11am. This skate is open to the public.

We also have two upcoming Professional Learning opportunities for you. The Flourish with French Workshop is being held on January 10, 2024 and will be

Virtual. You can register [here](#) for **Flourish with French**. We will also be hosting an in-person Classroom Management Workshop on January 31, 2024 at the GEETF Office in the large room starting at 4:30pm.

November 22, 2023

I hope that you have been having a good week thus far. I have a few reminders of upcoming events for you as well as information regarding some new events that have been planned for after Winter Break.

We are hosting a Zoom Check-In this evening, November 22, 2023 at 7:00pm. If you have a burning question or want to pop on and meet some of your Executive, you can register [here](#).

We also have two events coming up during the first week of December. On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, we will be hosting our Seasonal Social. This is not a business meeting but a social event for our Members. We will have some games and prizes followed by a buffet style dinner. This event will be held at the Best Western Brantford, Hotel and Conference Centre and will start at 4:30pm. Please register for this event [here](#).

On December 7, 2023, we are co-hosting a Pregnancy/Parental Leave Session at the GEETF Office with the Grand Erie Teacher and DECE Locals. If you are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant, this session will answer most, if not all of your questions. Registration for this event will close on November 30, 2023. This session will be held at the GEETF Office at 49 Dalkeith Drive, Units 1 & 2 starting with dinner at 4:00pm followed by the information session from 4:30-6:00pm. You can register [here](#) for this event. If you are unable to attend this session, we are also co-hosting a second Pregnancy/Parental Leave Session with the Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Occasional Teacher Local on March 18, 2024. The second session will be held in Hamilton at the HWOTL Office. More information will follow closer to the event date.

Other upcoming dates to note in your calendar are January 3, 2024 for our Free Skate and January 10, 2024 for our first Professional Learning event of the year - "Flourish with French." I hope to see you out at our upcoming events!

[November 10, 2023](#)

This week I have some reminders for you regarding upcoming events as well as a reminder to complete Workplace Violence/Incident Reporting Forms. Information on reporting will be at the end of this email.

We have several upcoming events including our Seasonal Social and a joint Pregnancy and Parental Leave Session. The first event will be our Zoom Check-In on November 22 at 7:00pm. This is a drop in style meeting for anyone who has questions or concerns to ask "in-person." To register for this event, click [here](#). We will also be hosting our Seasonal Social on December 6, 2023 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre in Brantford. This is a social event and an opportunity to mingle and share a meal with other OTs from the Local. To register for the Seasonal Social, please click [here](#). We will be meeting starting at 4:30 with games and prizes. The third event is the Pregnancy and Parental Leave Session with the Teacher and DECE Locals. This event will be held at the GEETF Office. To view the flyer please click [here](#). If you are interested in attending, please register [here](#). I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Workplace Violence/Incident Reporting Forms are critical when it comes to getting support for students and recording incidents. When you completed your Mandatory Annual Health and Safety training, you completed a section on how to report an incident. While I know that reporting can be time consuming, it is important to complete the reports whether you are a Daily OT in an assignment or on an LTO. These reports are viewed monthly by the Joint Health and Safety Committee Workers and as a team we flag incidents and present them to Management to ensure that all available resources are in place. These reports aid in addressing the need for ongoing EA support in classrooms as well as Social Work, Behaviour Councillors and any other resources such as PPE are available to the classroom in need. If you have questions surrounding reporting, please reach out to the Local Office.

[November 3, 2023](#)

Happy Friday! As the cold weather starts to set in, remember that our clocks go back an hour this weekend. While we do not have an in-person event scheduled for this month, we do have a Zoom Check-In scheduled for November 22 at 7:00pm. The Zoom Check-Ins are a drop-in style and you can pop on with any questions that you might have or just to meet your Executive and hear answers to

questions that other Members pose. We will be hosting our Seasonal Social on December 6 at the Best Western Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre starting at 4:30pm. This is not a business meeting but a chance to get out and meet other OTs and win some prizes while enjoying the buffet style dinner. Please register [here](#).

Also, reminders that our [PL Survey](#) will be closing next week and that there are funds available for your own professional growth. You can access up to \$450 for professional learning per school year. You can find the PL Fund Guidelines [here](#) and the Form 1 application [here](#). If you are purchasing a professional resource, you could also qualify for up to \$35 per school year. Find out more [here](#).

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 10, 2023](#)

We will also be hosting our first General Meeting of the year. This meeting will be held at the Best Western, Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre on October 25, 2023. We will be sharing our Preliminary Submission for Local Bargaining as well as our Budget for the 2023/2024 year. A buffet style dinner will be provided. Our General Meetings start at 4:30pm and run until approximately 7:00 (including dinner). Please register [here](#) for this event. I hope to see you all there. Please bring any questions or concerns.

Our next Local Event will be the Seasonal Social which will be held on December 6, 2023 at the Best Western, Brantford Hotel and Conference Centre.

In November we will hold our first Zoom Check-In. The Zoom Check-Ins are a great opportunity to pop on with any questions or concerns and to meet with your Local Executive. Zoom Check-Ins will be held during months that we are not meeting in-person for a Local Meeting and will be open from 7-8pm. They are drop-ins and no registration is required.

Our PL Chair, Maryanne Goldsmith, has created a survey in order to develop a Professional Learning Plan for this year. Please complete the survey [here](#). I am looking forward to year filled with events both Professional and Social and I hope to see you out at these!

You can reach out to the Local Office with any questions or concerns at 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

Stay Safe and Healthy,
President Amanda

[September 30, 2023](#)

My apologies for a second email today. This email is the one that many of you have been waiting for! The Itinerant LTO posting is active.

There is also an opportunity to attend an event at the Rope Factory in Brantford with our Education Affiliates. Please see the flyer [here](#). This event will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

As always, the Local Office is available for any questions or concerns that you might have by phone 519-427-6993 or via [email](#).

**Stay Safe and Healthy,
President Amanda**

"United we stand, divided we fall." Aesop

[September 5, 2023](#)

Welcome to the 2023/2024 School Year! I hope that you had a restful summer and are excited to be back in the classroom this year!

We will be hosting the majority of our events in-person unless it becomes necessary for us to switch to a Virtual Format. I am looking forward to working with you this year and wanted to provide you with some important dates. While your Executive Members meet monthly (excluding February), we also have three Membership Meetings throughout the school year. These meetings are being hosted at the Best Western in Brantford and will be held on October 25, December 6 and May 22. While our December meeting is a Social, the October and May meetings will be business meetings including Local Elections in May. I hope to see you out at these events!

We will also be hosting various workshops and other Social (some Family & Friends) events throughout the school year. These meetings are great for bringing your questions and concerns forward to the Executive.

We will also host Zoom Check-Ins throughout the year. These dates have not yet

been set but I will send them out once they have been finalized. The Check-Ins are open for an hour and are a great opportunity to drop-in and ask any burning questions.

As we are still in negotiations, Centrally, we will be holding a Central Strike Vote in the next month or so. Details will be sent out when they become available. Local Bargaining will commence this year and we will be hosting a Local Vote on our Preliminary Submission in order to start these Local negotiations. Please keep an eye on your emails in order to ensure that you are able to participate in these meetings as it is so important that all Members have a say in our negotiation process and this will be your opportunity to ask questions of your Local Bargaining Team.

Please check out last Wednesday's Trending, August 30, 2023. There is information on the Mandatory H&S Training that must be completed by October 15, 2023.

I hope that you have a great first week back at school. The Local Office can be reached 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

Feeling refreshed for a new school year

Summer break is an excellent time to refresh yourself for the next school year. It's also an

ideal time to align your goals, including those that support your health, wellness, and financial security. Let OTIP help you with that! Read more at www.otip.com/article168.

#OTIPUpdate