



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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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*



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## ***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](http://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.