

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members

From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)

Date: March 20, 2020

Regarding: Update regarding School Closure Issues from ETFO Provincial General Secretary Sharon O'Halloran

Presidents

We participated in a brief call with the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister Andrew David this morning. The Deputy Minister has committed to regular communication with labour partners including affiliate union representatives over the next few weeks. Nancy Naylor indicated that they will be setting up regular calls to “seek our advice” as they prepare for next steps if this goes beyond two weeks.

She also advised that they will be launching a “Learn from Home” site later today that will contain a focused set of resources for families to access while they are at home with their children. For elementary, she mentioned resources from TVO, TFO, such as Mathify and others. These are intended as resources for parents of students at the elementary level. They are also investigating resources for students at the secondary level.

We asked her about the status of communication to school boards on the issue of casual worker compensation. She indicated that they are preparing to “provide written guidance” to boards on this issue. She also agreed with ETFO that a consistent approach to this would be “helpful.” They are tracking the information that has come out from individual boards this week.

Lastly, we asked for her comment on the situation in Quebec. She responded emphatically that they will “not be doing anything like Quebec.”

We will keep you posted on any new information that comes out of our conversations with the DM over the next week. Thanks for all that you are doing to share information with your members during uncertain times.

Sharon O'Halloran
General Secretary