

Your Member News

November 27, 2024



ETFO telephone town halls December 3 and 4

ETFO will be holding telephone town halls to continue to engage with members about the issues you are facing on a daily basis. Please mark these dates in your calendar, **Tuesday, Dec. 3, and Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6:00 p.m. EST and 7:30 p.m. (EST).**

Each local has been assigned a specific time and date. Please visit the [ETFO website](#) to find out which town hall you should attend.



Math Proficiency Test requirement?

Despite significant pushback from ETFO, the Ontario government is moving ahead with requiring teacher certification applicants to pass a Math Proficiency Test (MPT) as of Feb. 1, 2025.

This means that ETFO members who have completed their teacher education program requirements and hold a transitional certificate or multi-session transitional certificate **should apply to convert** to a General Certificate of Qualification and Registration (CQR) through the Ontario College of Teachers **well in advance of February 1 to avoid the new MPT requirement.**

[Learn more about the MPT requirement.](#)



December 3 is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

In 1992, the United Nations designated December 3 the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**. Observed annually, this day acknowledges the contributions made by people with disabilities, raises awareness of disability as a lived experience, and identifies the actions needed to create an inclusive world.

This year, a book list was developed to facilitate awareness about increasing the representation of people with disabilities. Find the list on [our website](#).



Podcast: Reclaiming Anishnaabek language, with Dr. Alan Corbiere

Listen to the latest episode of ETFO's **Elementary** podcast to hear Dr. Alan Corbiere describe his journey to reclaim and teach Anishinaabemowin.

This is the second part of a longer conversation with Dr. Corbiere, who is the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous History of North America at York University, and a visiting fellow at Harvard.

You can hear parts one and two of this interview with **Elementary** on most podcast apps or at [etfo.ca](#). Don't miss it!

Get the news from the broader labour community. Subscribe to the e-newsletters that labour and education organizations produce to stay in touch with workers like you.

[CONNECT NOW!](#)



When violence comes to work

More than four in 10 women who have been in intimate partner relationships have experienced intimate partner violence (also called domestic violence), according to Statistics Canada.

As Canada marks the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence on November 25, remember that intimate partner violence can follow workers into the workplace.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires employers to keep workers safe from intimate partner violence at work. Visit [ETFO's health and safety website](#) to learn more.



Pedagogy and Professional Judgement: Tiered Approach to Instruction

To discover how your professional judgement can guide your practice to make the most of a tiered approach to instruction, check out our new [Pedagogy and Professional Judgement: Tiered Approach to Instruction](#) resource.

Be sure to explore the full [Pedagogy and Professional Judgement](#) series for more great information.

Important reminder for all ETFO members:

Be sure to register at members.etfo.ca for access to opportunities, information, classroom resources, and more.



LTD benefit contribution rates remain unchanged for 2025

Eligible members' LTD benefit contributions will remain the same in 2025 for the fifth year in a row. The ETFO provincial LTD plan came into effect in November 2013 and is administered by the Ontario Teachers' Insurance Plan (OTIP).

Participation in the plan is mandatory for all active full- or part-time members, and LTD contributions are automatically deducted from eligible members' pay cheques.



ETFO Summer Academy 2025 call for course leaders

ETFO is seeking [course leaders for Summer Academy 2025](#).

Summer Academy offers three-day courses in person and virtually across the province throughout July and August. Being a course leader is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and be active in your union!

Full application details can be found on the [Call for Course Leaders flyer](#).

Interested applicants should apply by 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 2025.

Professional Learning Events



Arts Conference



Women's Health and Safety Conference

January 31, 2024 - February 1, 2025

Members looking for practical, curriculum-based ideas for bringing the arts into their

classrooms are invited to register for the upcoming ETFO Arts Conference.

This **conference** will explore visual art, music, drama, and dance through a variety of hands-on

sessions that are sure to inspire you! An engaging keynote speaker will begin the program on Friday at 7:00 p.m. at the provincial office in Toronto.

[View the flyer.](#)

Registration closes Dec. 9 at 9:00 a.m.

January 23, 2025

This **conference** supports the leadership development of women members by helping them gain insights, skills, and confidence dealing with health and safety issues in the context of sex and gender.

Members will learn about occupational health and

safety advocacy and be empowered to exercise their rights in the workplace to support safer worksites for everyone.

[View the flyer.](#)

Registration closes Dec. 6 at 5:00 p.m.



Anti-Oppressive Framework Program

January 28-29, 2025

This **two-day leadership training** conference is for members who are committed to becoming involved in their union and creating a just society.

Participants will delve into ETFO's **Anti-Oppressive Framework primer** through case studies and practical examples that will assist them in their local as well as their future union leadership endeavours.

[View the flyer.](#)

Registration closes Dec. 6.



The Occasional Teacher's Toolbox: Strategies for Success and Advocacy

February 21-22, 2025

Registration for ETFO's Occasional Teacher Conference is now open!

This year's conference features an exciting program with lots of timely, practical tools and strategies to support occasional teacher members.

[View the flyer](#) for more information and registration details.

Registration closes Jan. 6 at 4:00 p.m.



Intersectional Allyship (WP)

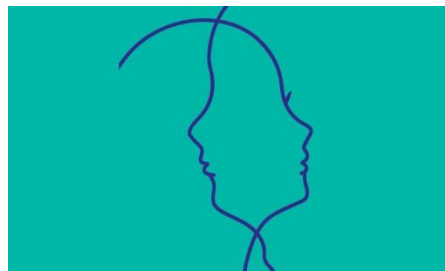
February 19-20, 2025

This [exciting program](#) will provide members who identify as women with the opportunity to explore the connections between sport, movement, and play through the lens of intersectional allyship.

Members selected to participate will be notified via email in January. There is a \$50.00 registration fee.

[View the flyer.](#)

Registration opens Dec. 9 and closes Jan. 6 at 5:00 p.m.



Member Services

Starling Minds mental fitness webinar

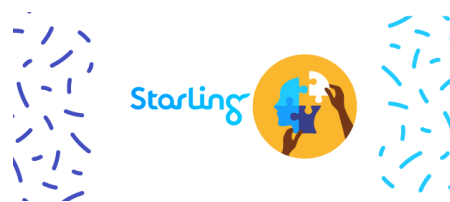
November 28, 2024

Taking care of our mental health can be challenging. It starts with being self-aware and understanding where we are. From there, we can dedicate time and attention to finding the best strategies and supports that work for us.

Starling Minds has a platform designed just for you and your mental fitness needs. Join an hour-long webinar Nov. 28 to learn more about the program and find the support you need, whether you are unsure how it can help you, where to start, or what the newest features are.

To register for the Starling Minds webinar, you must have a Starling Minds account.

Not a Starling member yet? Register at members.starlingminds.com and enter your access code: **MEMBER**



Home fire safety with OTIP

House fires are one of the most common emergencies Canadians experience. While house fires can happen anywhere and anytime, but they're most common between December and March.

Now is the perfect time to learn how to protect your home and loved ones from the impacts of fire. A house fire can pose a severe threat in just a few minutes, which is why it's so important to be informed and prepared. [Read more.](#) #OTIPUpdate



Educator Blogs



- [How the land acknowledgment compels me to take action](#) by Devon Clarke
- [Love language](#) by Sharon Ethier
- [Finding calm in teaching: Small ways to turn a stressful day around](#) by Colleen Elep

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The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
represents 83,000 teachers and education workers.