

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** March 7, 2025  
**Regarding:** **Weekly Update 23**

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## **Bill 124 Remedy and CRA T1198 Tax Forms**

A link to information from the Thames Valley District School Board regarding CRA T1198 tax forms accompanies this update.

A Statement of Qualifying Retroactive Lump-Sum Payment (a T1198 tax form) will be prepared by the Thames Valley District School Board for Teachers who received a qualifying retroactive lump-sum payment/payments exceeding \$3000.00.

Teachers who received a retroactive lump-sum payment of less than \$3000.00 and who want the T1198 tax form are advised to contact TVDSB Payroll directly.

Specific questions regarding all tax forms should be directed to TVDSB Payroll.

## **International Women's Day**

Saturday, March 8 is International Women's Day. Here is the United Nations 2025 International Women's Day statement:

This year's theme - For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment - calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

Besides, the year 2025 is a pivotal moment as it marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). This document is the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide that transformed the women's rights agenda in terms of legal protection, access to services, youth engagement, and change in social norms, stereotypes and ideas stuck in the past.

Engage media, corporate leaders, governments, community leaders, civil society and youth, and others with influence to take action in your communities. Ask leaders to take action and invest in promoting women's rights and gender equality. Share International Women's Day stories and messages on digital platforms, using the hashtag #ForAllWomenAndGirls to spark dialogue and inspire action.

## **QECO Data Breach**

On July 26, 2024, there was a data breach on a QECO file server. QECO has taken steps to secure the environment and will contact all individuals who were affected.

ETFO members who have any additional questions should contact the QECO incident response line at 1-833-778-1365 between the hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm EST Monday–Friday. Please also refer to QECO at queco.ca.

## **ETFO Provincial Bursaries and Scholarships**

The ETFO Scholarships and Bursaries Program offers financial incentives to: members and non-members entering faculties of education; members studying at the graduate level; and members upgrading their qualifications at publicly funded universities/institutions in Ontario. This includes bursaries for members of designated groups, including Black and Indigenous educators, and bursaries for children of ETFO members.

The application window for [ETFO Scholarships and Bursaries](#) is now open. The deadline to apply is April 30. Local presidents can expect to hear regarding the disposition of bursaries, scholarships, and awards after June 30.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Workplace Steward' Meeting – March 19, 2025
- Independent Women Financial Workshop – March 20, 2025
- 25 Year Celebration – March 26, 2025
- Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy – April 1, 2025
- Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop – April 2, 2025
- Visual Strategies Workshop – April 10, 2025
- Unlearn. Relearn. How Colonization Impacts Your Practice Workshop – April 10, 2025
- Why Poverty? Workshop – April 15, 2025

## **Communication Protocol**

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board's **Disconnecting from Work Employee Procedure** came into effect on Thursday, June 2 in compliance with the **Working for Workers Act, 2021**.

Violations of the **Communication Protocol** and the **TVDSB Disconnecting from Work Procedure** must be reported to the Local office immediately.

## **Duty of the Local**

- Defend the **Collective Agreement** and the rights of Teachers under it.
- Ensure that the provisions of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** are enforced.
- Bring to the attention of TVDSB ongoing Teacher concerns, with the expectation that these concerns will be taken seriously and resolved quickly.
- Communicate with Teachers in a clear, concise, and timely manner

Enjoy a safe, peaceful, and well-deserved Spring Break.

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at [etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com](mailto:etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com)