

**To:** ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members  
**From:** Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)  
**Date:** August 28, 2023  
**Regarding:** **President's Summer Update August 2023**

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First, a profound apology for interrupting the summer break. Some timely information to share with all Teachers.

### **Local Collective Bargaining Update**

The Local Bargaining Team has tabled significant proposals that form the basis a Positive Workplace Framework.

Local bargaining will resume in September. It is the expectation of ETFO TVTL that the Board will bargain in good faith. A significant number of bargaining dates between the start of the school year and Winter Break have been proposed.

The Local will keep Teachers informed regarding progress at the local bargaining table in a clear, concise and timely manner.

The goal of the ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local is to negotiate a fair collective agreement, that addresses working condition issues, through free local collective bargaining.

### **Communication Protocol**

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect **from** Friday, June 30 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Monday, September 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The Board's **Disconnecting from Work Employee Procedure** came into effect on Thursday June 2, 2022, 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.

### **ETFO Provincial Multi-Year Strategy to Address Violence in Schools**

Accompanying this update is a link to ETFO Provincial's Multi-Year Strategy to Address Violence in Schools.

### **Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) Ruling on PPM 168 and the Early Reading Screener**

The recent ruling of the OLRB confirms that current collective agreement language remains active, that the Ford government violated the collective agreement and bargained in bad faith, and that Teacher use of the Early Reading Screener is not mandatory.

A link to the joint ETFO-OECTA statement on this issue accompanies the update.

**"The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook."**

## **Joint ETFO/OECTA/AEFO Media Statement re. Government "invitation" to engage in voluntary binding arbitration**

Accompanying this update is a link to the joint ETFO/OECTA/AEFO statement regarding the Ford government's invitation to engage in voluntary binding arbitration.

### **Red Cross/Northwest Territories (NWT) Wildfire Relief**

The ETFO Provincial Executive approved the following motion:

That ETFO donate \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross and match any ETFO Local donations for up to an additional \$25,000, to help aid in the fight against the wildfires in the Northwest Territories, with costs charged to Local Donations, Budget Line 22295 - Disaster Relief Donations.

The Canadian Red Cross is working diligently to help aid relief efforts in areas affected by the raging wildfires in the Northwest Territories.

The NWT has declared a territorial state of emergency in response to out-of-control wildfires. Dangerous fires continue to spread throughout the territory posing a significant threat to many communities and forcing people to evacuate their homes. Smoke from the fires has caused many highways to be impassable, leaving air travel to be the only safe option.

ETFO Provincial will match local donations to the Red Cross up to an additional \$25,000.00.

The ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local is donating \$3742.00 in support of this relief effort.

### **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.

Once again, apologies for interrupting the summer break. Happy Labour Day to all

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)