

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: November 19, 2021
Regarding: Weekly Update (11)

The Thames Valley District School Board has announced that when schools are closed for reasons unrelated to COVID-19 (e.g., Snow Days), Teachers are expected to post open-ended asynchronous activities on the virtual platform for students to access on these days.

Senior Administration stated that this was in compliance with direction from the Ministry of Education. It appears that this is **not** direction from the Ministry of Education but rather a choice made by TVDSB Senior Administration, which reflects a rather puzzling commitment to the promotion post-pandemic virtual teaching and learning.

TVDSB could have made a different choice. Consider the message from the Halton District School Board (HDSB):

Dear HDSB families,

With cooler weather approaching, we are writing to provide you with information on how decisions are made on days of inclement weather. If your child is bused to school, please ensure which transportation zone you are located in.

We encourage all families to review the HDSB Inclement Weather Reminders. A printable version of this information is also available.

Similar to last year, when schools are closed due to inclement weather, both in-person and virtual schools will be closed. This decision was made to ensure student and staff safety and to continue to provide an equitable learning experience for all students. Impacting factors include inequitable access to technology and the internet for families which would lead to inconsistent delivery and access to instruction, and the complexities to fully transition effectively to online learning with short notice.

HDSB has taken a sensible, humane, and equitable position on the issue of school closures unrelated to COVID-19. TVDSB should reconsider and do the same.

Teachers are reminded that there is **no** requirement for synchronous teaching during school closure unrelated to COVID-19.

Collective Agreement language regarding Inclement Weather Days, and Acts of Nature remain accessible to all Teachers as per past practice.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the communication protocol (CA LOU 7, Communication Protocol) **commences** on Friday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. and **ends** on Sunday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m.

It is the duty of the Local to:

- Defend the **Collective Agreement** and the rights of Teachers under it.
- Ensure that the provisions of the **Occupational Health and Safety Act** are vigorously 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.

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

c. *ETFO TVTL Released Officers*
Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local
Elizabeth Kettle, ETFO Provincial CB Staff Officer
Linda Nicholls, Human Resources Superintendent