

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: February 2, 2024
Regarding: **Weekly Update (19)**

Current Collective Agreement language, provisions, and past practices are subject to a statutory freeze during the period of central and local collective bargaining bargaining (**Labour Relations Act, 1995, Section 86, Subsection 1**). Violations of the collective agreement must be reported immediately to the ETFO Local office (519-474-3150).

Local Collective Bargaining

The ETFO and TVDSB table teams met on Monday, January 29. Bargaining dates are scheduled for February 13 and 14.

Two additional local collective bargaining dates have been confirmed:

- Tuesday, March 5
- Wednesday, March 6

Teachers are asked to consider wearing the grey local bargaining tee shirts on **bargaining days**, at **monthly staff meetings**, or at **any other time**.

The goal of ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local CB is to negotiate a fair collective agreement, that addresses working condition issues, through local collective bargaining. The ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local will continue to keep Teachers informed regarding progress at the local bargaining table in a clear, concise, and timely manner.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Accompanying this update is a link to the ETFO Provincial media release regarding sustained focus on Black History.

April 8 PA Day/Total Solar Eclipse

April 8 is now a Professional Activity Day. Here is the message from TVDSB, posted on Wednesday, January 31, 2024:

In alignment with other school boards across the province, the **Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, April 19th, 2024, will be changed to Monday, April 8th, 2024.**

The reason for this decision is safety concerns associated with a total solar eclipse scheduled to affect the region between 2-4:30pm on Monday, April 8th, 2024.

Looking directly at a total solar eclipse can be dangerous because of the intense sunlight that is still present even when the moon is blocking part of or all of the sun. The sun's rays can cause damage to the eyes. Regular sunglasses are not sufficient for looking at a solar eclipse because they do not block the harmful solar radiation.

Southwestern Public Health and the Middlesex-London Health Unit recommend following the advice of the [Canadian Association of Optometrists to safely enjoy a solar eclipse](#). For more information about on how to safely experience the total solar eclipse, please visit the [NASA website](#) for additional resources.

The health and safety of students and staff is our number one priority.

Here is ETFO TVTL's response and suggestion:

ETFO TVTL, through Health and Safety, is asking the employer to draft a simple worker safety plan for this event. The Board has not yet responded with a plan for worker safety. We will continue to push them to do so.

Recognizing the concern for student safety, this is also the end of the workday for staff, most of whom will be driving at the height of this event.

Early dismissal from work, and/or the option to work remotely, might be prudent considerations given the profound safety concerns expressed.

Upcoming Events

- ETFO Family Skate Night – Friday, February 9, 2024
- General Meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2024
- Classroom Management Workshop – February 27/28, 2024
- Experienced Teacher TPA Workshop – Thursday, February 29, 2024
- London Lightning Basketball Game – Friday, March 1, 2024
- Retirement Planning Workshop – Monday, March 4, 2024
- 25 Year Celebration – Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- Workplace Stewards' Meeting – Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop – Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, February 4 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.

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

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

Thanks for all your good work.

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