

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: September 16, 2022
Regarding: **Weekly Update (1)**

A belated welcome back to all Teachers returning to the Board, and a warm welcome to all Teachers joining our ranks this school year.

We hope that everyone has had a reasonably good start to the school year.

The ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL) works hard to represent and serve all Teachers. We are only a phone call or email away if you have questions or concerns. Reach out to us at the ETFO Local Office. We are here to help.

Fall Checklist

Teachers are reminded to check the following at the beginning of the school year:

- Pay stub.
- Sick Day and Care Day banks.
- Timetable for instructional minutes (300 per day), preparation time (240 minutes/5-day cycle) and supervision time (80-minute hard cap maximum/5-day cycle) pro-rated to Full Time Equivalency (FTE) and in compliance with the Collective Agreement. Teachers should call the Local office with any questions or concerns. Violations of the Collective Agreement must be reported to the Local office immediately.

Return to Pre-Pandemic Practices

The Board arbitrarily determined that the system will return to pre-pandemic practices regarding access to quarantine days. How this decision was made and communicated is being addressed by ETFO TVTL.

Notwithstanding the above, it is the expectation of ETFO TVTL that pre-pandemic (September 2019) practices will be reinstated throughout the system. Some examples:

- **Diagnostic Assessment** – Teacher driven in support of student program, in compliance with Policy and Program Memorandum 155, Diagnostic Assessment, and provisions of the Collective Agreement.
- **Virtual Learning Platforms** – Teachers exercise professional judgement in the use of virtual learning platforms as a teaching tool within the in-person classroom. Teachers in virtual teaching/learning environments are obviously required to have a virtual learning platform (Brightspace, as directed by the Board).
- **Student Attendance** – As per pre-pandemic past practice.

"The Collective Agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook."

Monday September 19

The Government of Ontario has declared Monday, September 19 a Provincial Day of Mourning in recognition of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This is not a public holiday. Ontarians have been asked to observe one minute of silence at 1:00 p.m. The official period of public mourning ends on Monday, September 19.

Condolences, on behalf of the ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local, we sent to Buckingham Palace on Monday, September 12.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, September 18 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.

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 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.

Thank you for all your hard work in support of student learning and for your ongoing support of the work of the Federation. Have a safe and peaceful weekend.

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