

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: June 24, 2022
Regarding: Weekly Update (40)

Happy Summer. There are four (4) days remaining in the 2021-2022 school year.

Political Action Update

The new Cabinet was sworn in today. The new Minister of Education is Stephen Lecce.

Collective Bargaining Update

Work continues on the Local Preliminary Submission. A draft will be submitted to the ETFO Provincial General Secretary for approval and will then be presented to Teachers in the fall.

Teachers are reminded that violations of the collective agreement **must** be reported to the Local office immediately.

Local Leader Appreciation

Local Leaders – Workplace Stewards, Health and Safety Representatives, Area Captains, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members - were honoured and acknowledge on Wednesday June 22 at the ETFO Local office.

Four retired ETFO TVTL Teachers – Lori Bailey, Diane Dempsey, Karen Radley, and Sara Rans received Honorary Life Memberships, in recognition of exemplary service to the Federation.

Below is a written statement from Honorary Life Member Sara Rans:

It is really is an honour to receive an honorary lifetime membership. And to receive it from the elementary teachers who have weathered a strike and a pandemic since I left the world of teaching doubles the honour.

Let me share three thoughts. First, never underestimate the power of teachers to do good for students and schools. Our ability to advocate for students and to consider their social, emotional, and academic needs - in spite of an under-resourced system led by a government that does not champion public education - can and does make a difference.

Second, never underestimate your own social and emotional needs. Twice in my career, I have had to take a break to recover from anxiety and depression exacerbated by the decisions of school administrators. It can happen to anyone, but most often to people who care. I know you - stewards, health & safety reps, and committee reps - wouldn't be here if you didn't care. Take care of yourself.

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

Finally, do not underestimate your vote. You may know that I am a New Democrat and am tremendously proud of Terence Kernaghan, our Teacher/MPP, as well as Peggy Sattler, and Teresa Armstrong. Over the next four years, we will probably see more cutbacks in and privatization of our school system. We must continue to fight this in our schools, our communities, and our province. We must fight this as strong union members and as leaders. We must join with our colleagues in health care and public service. When the 2026 election comes, let's make sure staying home is not an option. Those are my thoughts. Thank you so much for this honour. Good luck with your final days of school.

LSTs and SEA Equipment

LSTs are being directed to collect and deliver SEA equipment to the Board.

This matter was discussed at next week's ETFO/TVDSB Labour Management meeting.

LSTs should be submitting mileage claims upon completion of this work.

Communication Protocol

Teachers are reminded that the **Communication Protocol** remains in effect, **from** Friday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m. **until** Sunday, June 26 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.

Have a good weekend and stay well.

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