

OSSTF Limestone District 27

Teachers' Bargaining Unit

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MEMORANDUM

To: Long-term Occasional Teachers
From: Steve Newstead, District and Teachers' Bargaining Unit President
Date: 1/17/2008
Re: Ministry Focus Group opportunity for Long Term Occasional Teachers

Last year, the Ministry of Education conducted a survey of Long-term Occasional Teachers. What they found is that very little is known, despite the fact that they are in very demanding jobs, of the needs of this particular group of teachers. The Ministry has decided that it wishes to investigate this issue further so they can better address those needs.

They have decided to convene a focus-group of Long-term Occasionals for a one-day discussion based on several questions which would be sent out ahead of time. The discussion's focus would be on Long-term Occasional issues - what's going well and what's not. The Ministry will take this discussion into account as they cement their future planning at the Ministry.

The Ministry wants this to be relatively informal and non-political, just a real "in-the-trenches" discussion. The qualifier is critical because they want the Long-term Occasional Teachers to be comfortable about sharing their experiences and needs without any inhibitions or concerns.

The Ministry:

- is looking for Long-term Occasional Teachers who have recently graduated and are looking for permanent contract positions
- wants four to six people per Federation (taking into consideration regions, urban/rural boards...etc.)
- will pay for the supply teacher for the day (or if the OT is not in an LTO at the time, a one day "per diem") and any travel expenses based on the Ministry's rates.

The date tentatively selected for this focus-group discussion is Tuesday, February 12. The Ministry has asked all affiliates to arrange suitable participants. I will forward names and contact info to the provincial office for consideration. Teachers who are selected by the provincial office to take part in the focus group will be contacted directly

If you are an Occasional Teacher who meets the description above, **LTOs who have recently graduated and are looking for permanent contract positions**, and if you would be willing to participate in this focus-group discussion, please forward your contact information as described below to me.

The deadline is Tuesday, January 22, 2008 for Provincial Office consideration.

Please forward the following information by email to me at tbupres@kingston.net

your name; mailing address, phone number and home e-mail
your school and principal's name if in an LTO position
how many LTO positions you have had since graduating from teachers' college