

# OSSTF Limestone District 27

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## Memorandum

**To:** Branch Presidents  
**From:** Steve Newstead, District and Teachers' Bargaining Unit President  
**Date:** 12/17/2010  
**Re:** Bill 168, An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act

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As you are aware, the board has mandated all worksites to participate in Bill 168 training at today's staff meetings. We only became aware of this initiative late last week when many of you contacted us to ensure we were aware of this request. We did not receive official notification of this training from the Limestone District School Board and are therefore in a reactionary situation.

Since then, we have been in contact with the Human Resources Department at the Board. We have expressed our concern that mandated training from the Ministry is being conducted at this month's staff meeting and that other important items are being deferred to next month. We made it clear to the board that training such as the Bill 168 training should be done during instructional time. We feel this training should be done during one of our scheduled professional development days. When asked why the training was not done at the September PD Day, we were told "the training was not ready at that time".

In the last round of negotiations, your bargaining team was able to negotiate the following language:

***Article 39.4 The Board shall ensure that first aid and safety training (including WHMIS) training programs are normally available to members during the work day as indicated in Articles 15.1.1 and 15.2.***

Since this legislation falls under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, it is in fact safety training. Given the board has made no attempt to offer this training as part of the work day, we see this as a violation to the intent of this article as negotiated. In the event Bill 168 training goes ahead as scheduled, the Teachers' Bargaining Unit will initiate a grievance on our members behalf.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.