



# OSSTF DISTRICT 27 *LIMESTONE NEWS*

November 2009

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 3



## WE HAVE OUR SECOND WINNER

A draw was held from all those who sent in their home e-mail address... and the winner is **Deborah Carroll** of LaSalle SS.

Enter our November/December Final Draw and help us reduce the amount of paper the District uses. Sign up for home email delivery of the *Limestone News* along with important Federation communications and have your name entered to win a \$30 gift certificate.

Simply send an email  
from: your **HOME** e-mail (not Firstclass)  
to: [osstf@kingston.net](mailto:osstf@kingston.net)  
subject: go green  
and **VOILA!** You're entered.

## In This Issue

### FRONT

Common Threads Resource  
Help Go Green

### BACK

December 6 Remembrance  
OTIP Bursary Program  
Bill 177  
Spotlight On...  
EAP Information

## Common Threads resource

Teaching Materials • Lesson Plans • Assessment  
Rubrics • Integrated DVD and CD



Common Threads is the OSSTF/FEESO International Solidarity program whereby members research a current issue and develop curriculum material for use in our secondary schools. We work collaboratively with our international partners on topics which resonate with all students.

Our fourth Common Threads project on Food and Food Security is now available. **Please visit your school library to borrow a copy.**

Teacher friendly. Includes everything you need: Comprehensive, with all needed resources, handouts and assessment rubrics provided. It is multimedia in nature and engaging for students and instructors alike.

Designed for a variety of subjects, including: civics, science, geography, health, politics and family studies.

For more information contact Domenic Bellissimo at 416-751-8300 or to order any of the four resources, go to [www.commonthreads.ca](http://www.commonthreads.ca)



## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and a new bilingual OSSTF/FEESO poster has been created to link our remembrance of the 14 women who were murdered on December 6, 1989 with a commitment to action today. This poster is going out to every OSSTF/FEESO



member as an insert in the October issue of *Update* along with information on resources and ideas for change. There will also be materials available on the OSSTF/FEESO website, including the original poster circulated through *Update* last year. As well,

the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has launched a new postcard campaign for the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. Called *20 Days/20 Ways*, the CLC campaign features a package of 20 different postcards each focused on one issue of women's economic and social well-being and safety. One card is to be signed and mailed to the Prime Minister every day from November 16th until December 6th.

*from the October 30 message from OSSTF President, Ken Coran*

## OSSTF/FEESO calls for public consultation on Bill 177

**TORONTO, ON - Sep 17 2009** - The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) is warning that components of Bill 177, which is presently in its second reading, threatens the autonomy of local school boards and their ability to maintain the integrity of student achievement results.

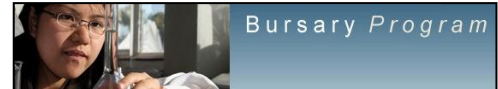
With Bill 177 embedding student achievement in the day to day operations of school boards, and the development of a Provincial Interest Regulation which outlines when and how the Ministry of Education could intervene to supervise a board, the provincial government is proposing a substantial change in the relationship between the Ministry of Education and school boards. The change will clearly lead to a weakening of school board governance and contribute to the continuing erosion of credit integrity.

Not only does Bill 177 offer no support to education employees or trustees working on the behalf of students, it actually undermines their efforts. The proposed legislation fails to recognize the special circumstances that boards may face in effectively serving special needs or at risk students that may not translate into appropriate test scores, credit accumulation rates or graduation rates.

Instead of supporting genuine student achievement, components of Bill 177 promote a system where statistical excellence is the goal, not quality education. Rather than increasing the public's confidence in education, it will diminish it by creating an education system where authentic learning and assessment and evaluation are replaced by the fear of not measuring up to a benchmark, thus triggering intervention by the Ministry of Education.

The success of a student, a school or a school board cannot be measured solely by statistics. Ensuring that school boards are able to provide the necessary staff, resources, programs and supports to enable students to achieve their goals and be prepared for their futures is an important task entrusted to the Ministry of Education. Balancing the need for support and the necessity for intervention is difficult, but the Ministry must ensure that any actions it takes truly puts students first and everything else second. OSSTF/FEESO does not support Bill 177, in its current form.

*from OSSTF Provincial Website [www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca)*



## Do your children or grandchildren need an extra \$1,500 for tuition?

**They could WIN a bursary from OTIP.**

If you're insured with OTIP and you have a child or grandchild (under the age of 30) who will be a full-time post-secondary student at a Canadian college or university for the upcoming academic year, the OTIP Bursary Program is for you! Applications are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 school year.

[www.otip.com/main/bursary.aspx](http://www.otip.com/main/bursary.aspx)



Retirement is looming — I am in my last five years of teaching. You know, the ones that count for pension purposes? I can't afford to do it now. It's my biggest regret — not applying for a Self-Funded X/Y Leave when I was younger.

Do you know that if you spread the period of your plan to 6/7 semesters that only 14.3% of your gross earnings will be deducted during the "X" period of the plan? You'll hardly notice it missing from your pay cheque.

Imagine skiing in February at Mont Tremblant, or lying on the Beach in Mexico in early March. Take time off to build your dream home, write a book or just spend time with your family. Maybe your dream is to go back to school and get your Master's Degree. The sky's the limit. All you have to do to make your dreams come true is to apply by April 1 of each year. Refer to Article 33 in the Collective Agreement for details.

Then I can live vicariously through each of you, when you send me a copy of your leave request.

Teresa Marrello  
OSSTF District Officer

**EAP** Employment Assistance Program

**613-549-5561 or 1-888-409-4499**

Emergency After Hours Counselling  
1-800-668-9920