



# The Bare Essentials



**November 5, 2009**

**Volume 12 Issue 3**

## **Important Benefits Update**

- ✓ Projected gap between benefits funding and benefit costs
- ✓ There will be no member premium increase for 2009-2010 school year
- ✓ Please use benefits responsibly
- ✓ In-depth "Benefits Update" memo included in package for each Statutory Member
- ✓ Benefits booklets are available on the DSBN internal website under Human Resources
- ✓ Teachers can now manage almost all medical and dental benefits online
  - see "Focus Update" Flyer

## **School Visits Now Underway**

- ✓ ETFO Niagara released officers have begun annual school visits
- ✓ Schools without a representative at Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting may find information particularly valuable
- ✓ Please contact Todd Rimmington ([vp1@etfoniag.com](mailto:vp1@etfoniag.com)) to book visit

## **Getting Information Quickly**

- ✓ **@ETFO** is Provincial bi-weekly newsletter that discusses: the work of the federation, issues in education, political campaigns, professional development opportunities, environmental issues, and social justice and equity issues
- ✓ Register on provincial website at [www.etfo.ca](http://www.etfo.ca)
- ✓ **Continue to check ETFO Niagara website ([www.etfoniag.com](http://www.etfoniag.com)) for latest information, forms, events, and professional development activities**

## **Christmas Stockings For Women's Shelters**

- ✓ Please help us provide support to our most vulnerable women and children
- ✓ Stockings to arrive in schools in the week of Nov. 9 – 13
- ✓ Stockings due to ETFO Niagara office or drop off location (TBA) by Dec. 10
- ✓ More details to follow with stockings

## **ETFO Children's Christmas Party**

- ✓ Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Welland Lions Club
- ✓ Registration forms now in schools
- ✓ Register via e-mail to [admin@etfoniag.com](mailto:admin@etfoniag.com) or via fax (905)892-9733
- ✓ **Registration Deadline November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**ETFO Niagara**

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905-892-2917 or 1-866-419-9484 [www.etfoniag.com](http://www.etfoniag.com)

## H1N1 Information

- ✓ Processes and protocols continue to evolve as public health continues to assess and monitor the spread of H1N1 and the associated risks
- ✓ Please continue to check the following websites for the latest info regarding H1N1
  - District School Board of Niagara [www.dsbni.edu.on.ca](http://www.dsbni.edu.on.ca)
  - The Niagara Region [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca)
  - The Ministry of Health [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca) (this website is particularly good for pregnant women who may have concerns)
- ✓ Best defense is vigilant hand washing practices
- ✓ List of vaccination clinics in your school

## Fraternity, a Forum, and Football (A Follow-up Focus Group)

- ✓ ETFO Niagara Equity Committee forum on issues of gender representation in education
- ✓ Focus: Participants to explore issues relating to the decline in the number of male teachers
- ✓ Goal: to identify ways that ETFO can support gender based issues
- ✓ **November 26, 2009 Discussion 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Followed by NFL Football**
- ✓ Flyer with registration and location details to follow

## ETFO Niagara Member Featured in “Voice” Article

- ✓ Article entitled “Three Perspectives on the Meaning of Equity” featured in October issue of “Voice”
- ✓ Jill Aoki-Barrett, teacher at Orchard Park School, provided insights and perspective on the meaning of Inclusion and Equity
- ✓ Inclusive Education: “Education is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all students. Students see themselves reflected in their curriculum, their physical surroundings, and the broader environment, in which diversity is honoured and all individuals are respected.”
  - ~ Ontario Ministry of Education (2009). [Realizing the promise of diversity: Ontario’s Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy](#)

## Premier McGuinty announces a Teacher Led Model for Full Day Kindergarten

- ✓ Phased in across the province over 5 years
- ✓ Implementation to begin September 2010
- ✓ Kindergarten teachers will work with Early Childhood Educators
- ✓ Average class sizes for full day kindergarten will be 26 students (not a cap)
- ✓ Regular half day or alternate full day programs still retain class size cap of 20

## Elementary Curriculum: Tell The Ministry of Education What You Think

- ✓ Province-wide consultation process underway regarding Ontario’s Elementary Curriculum
- ✓ Also looking for perspectives on learning and teaching in Ontario Schools
- ✓ Provide feedback at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/tellus.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/tellus.html)
- ✓ Deadline for submissions is November 12

## Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day (ETFO Niagara lays a wreath on behalf of all teachers)
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	PA Day for Assessment and Completion of Report Cards
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pregnancy and Parental Leave Workshop
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Niagara Executive Meeting
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Niagara Children’s Christmas Party