



The Bare Essentials



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ETFO Niagara

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Stretching your Vision Benefit

- ETFO members enrolled in our group benefits plan with Sun Life can get increased savings on products and services for your eyes and ears
- Preferred Vision Services (PVS) is a network of more than 1,000 health care service providers across the country
- As a Sun Life member, you automatically get the benefits of PVS which can save you up to 20% off the cost of prescription eyewear such as frames, lenses, and contact lenses
- Ordering online can provide even greater savings. Order contact lenses from a PVS Home Delivery Service Provider and you can get a discount of up to 50%, and if you decide to have laser eye surgery you can save 10% through a laser vision correction provider in the network
- For a list of PVS service providers and services call 1-800-668-6444 or visit www.pvs.ca
- For more information see the flyer with this newsletter and/or go to the member services area of the Sun Life website at www.mysunlife.ca (you will need your member access information)

Winter General Meeting (and Collective Bargaining Training)

- Winter General Meeting scheduled for February 16, 2012 – Frado's Restaurant
- **Please RSVP the number attending from your school ASAP!** (as well as any allergies/dietary restrictions along with member's name) to vp1@etfoniag.com
- See proposed amendments to local constitution and proposed resolutions to Provincial Annual Meeting in your school

Is There Interest for a Pregnancy/Parental Workshop?

- Each year ETFO Niagara offers 2 Pregnancy and Parental Leave Workshops
- Attendance has significantly dropped over the past two years including a very sparsely attended fall workshop
- If you have interest in a Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop please e-mail Todd at vp1@etfoniag.com in order to determine the level of interest
- In the absence of a spring workshop, Todd Rimmington in the Local office is willing to answer questions on the phone, via e-mail or to meet with members individually

Save the Date! ETFO Niagara Silent Auction – Thursday, April 19th, 2012

- Silent Auction scheduled for Thursday, April 19th, 5:00 – 9:00pm at Club Italia
- All Proceeds to Local Women's Shelters/Resource Centres across Niagara
- Please start considering items for donation
- Watch for upcoming details in the weeks to come

Survey of Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Members

- The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF), the Ontario government, and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPPB) have hired POLARA- a national research firm – to conduct a survey of pension plan members
- Intent: gauge member understanding of pension provisions and pension issues
- Information will help to guide pension education strategies for members
- Telephone interviews to be conducted during the month of February

ETFO 6th Annual Pop Culture Trivia Night (Cheque Please)

- **Friday, February 10, 2012** – Holiday Inn and Suites, see flyer for details
- Thanks to the more than 40 teams that registered
- There are still several teams who have indicated they are coming, but have not forwarded payment. Please forward payment to the ETFO Office (cheques made out to ETFO Niagara) (\$200 per table) ASAP to ensure that your table is maintained

Congratulations to Lincoln Centennial School for Winning their School a Playground!

- Participation in the Aviva Community Fund competition paid off as Lincoln Centennial was Awarded \$40,000 to put in a new playground structure
- The prize was awarded January 25th on Canada A.M.
- Five years ago, play structure was deemed unsafe and has not been replaced
- Thanks to all of you who supported our colleagues at Lincoln Centennial through your regular voting

Request for Self Identification

- ETFO Niagara Equity and Social Justice Committee is providing an opportunity for members to self identify for the purpose of providing programming and eliminating obstacles for members
- Self identification is voluntary and anonymous and will be conducted once a year
- **Please see "Request for Self Identification" form that was distributed 2 weeks ago for more details and Self I.D. check box**
- Please contact Terri Beck at the ETFO Niagara office if you have questions

Reminder - P.D. FUND FROZEN

- Due to a high volume of usage the ETFO Niagara Professional Development Fund can no longer process P.D. Fund requests
- If submitted requests cannot be funded, teachers will be notified and the request will be held on a first come, first served basis if funds do come available
- If you were approved for funding and will not be utilizing the fund, please let Terri Beck at ETFO know ASAP (vp2@etfoniag.com), so that funds can be redeployed to other awaiting applicants

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

February 10 th	ETFO/DSBN Pop Culture Trivia Night
February 15 th	Seniority List is completed
February 16 th	ETFO Niagara Winter General Meeting (Frado's)
March 8 th	ETFO Retirement Session #2 (Benefits)
March 8 th	International Women's Day
March 9 th – March 18 th	March Break – Enjoy!
March 21 st	ETFO Retirement Session #3 (Those Nitty, Bitty, Details)
April 19 th	ETFO Silent Auction
June 7 th	ETFO Niagara Retirement Dinner

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR FURTHER DETAILS (www.etfoniag.com)