



# The Bare Essentials



**September 14, 2011**

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**ETFO Niagara**

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## **Did that commercial just say “Vote Against Kids”?**

- ETFO Provincial created several advertisements with the intent to get people talking about the provincial election on October 6<sup>th</sup>
- The “satirical” or “parody” of negative attack ad style commercials are called “head snap” ads and have garnered the most attention out of any of the political media thus far.
- On September 7<sup>th</sup>, President Sam Hammond did an interview with CTV regarding the ads. Here is a link to the story: <http://etfo.net/CTVnewsSep7.wmv>
- ETFO Niagara has fielded many questions and comments about the ads thus far. We did not see the ads prior to their implementation, but we have learned that the next series of “reveal ads” will directly connect to the recent commercials.
- Although it should go without saying, ETFO believes strongly in public education and the children we serve. Please stay tuned.

## **October 6<sup>th</sup>, Provincial Election**

- The polls indicate that this is the closest provincial election race in several decades. Every vote is going to count in many close call races.
- We encourage all teachers to ensure that their schedules are clear on October 6<sup>th</sup> so that they can exercise their democratic right to vote.
- Thank you to all of the stewards and members who attended “**Ready...Set...Vote**” – the election primer BBQ (and information session) on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at CAW Hall.
- ETFO’s support of political candidates in the upcoming Provincial election is based on a strategy to elect an education friendly government

## **Staffing, Schedules and Supervision**

- Although a school is staffed with a compliment of teachers in the spring, the official compliment of staff assigned to a school isn’t finalized until the fall
- In September, the staffing allocation numbers in schools is reconciled against the actual student enrollment (“When we see the whites of their eyes”)
- Some schools will see an increase in staff, while other schools will have surplus teachers to the needs of the building
- **Application of Seniority** – when fewer teachers are needed at a school from one year to the next when there is a decline in the number of students at a school in the flowing year, compared to the current year. The result is a teacher or teachers being declared **surplus**
- Article 19.01 of the Collective Agreement outlines the process for declaring surplus teachers as well as the exceptions to the rule.
- For staffing questions regarding your particular situation, please contact Sharon Aloian at [pres@etfoniag.com](mailto:pres@etfoniag.com)

- **Supervision and School Day Schedules** – Each year ETFO collects supervision and school day schedules after the staffing reorganization. Please forward your schools schedules to Todd Rimmington at the ETFO Office by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Long Term Disability Plan Bulletin

- Long term disability is a members income insurance in the event that they become sick or disabled
- Members will note that the premium rate will remain unchanged again this year
- OTIP provides “Value-Added” benefits such as **FeelingBetterNow** which is a mental and emotional health care program ([www.feelingbetternow.com/otip](http://www.feelingbetternow.com/otip)) and **CAREpath** which is a cancer assistance program ([www.otip.com](http://www.otip.com))
- Please see the Long Term Disability in your school for more details

### Professional Development Fund Open

- P.D. Fund requests must be submitted and approved prior to the P.D. event
- Please give five days for your form to be delivered via courier or fax forms to 905-892-9733
- P.D. request forms can be found on the ETFO Niagara website under the “FORMS and DOCUMENTS” tab.
- Due to volume of applications as well as other business of the local, please allow at least 2 weeks for the application to be processed
- Questions? Contact Terri Beck at [vp2@etfoniag.com](mailto:vp2@etfoniag.com)

### Teacher Leadership: Growing in Your Teaching Career

- A professional development program designed to celebrate, support and nurture those who are committed to a career in teaching – see application package for more information
- Course dates: October 5, 14, 15, 24, and November 2, 2011
- Registration fee: \$150
- This Program is offered in partnership with the DSBN

### Last Deadline for Males in Education social to a football game

- Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – bus leaves at 8:45 a.m.
- Bill vs Eagles - food and beverages included
- \$125/member
- See poster in your school for more details and a registration form.
- **REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED WITH PAYMENT BY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**
- *If the trip does not run due to lack of attendance, registrants will be contacted and money will be refunded.*

### ETFO Credit Courses

- Classroom based courses that are held at locations and time convenient for teachers
- Course costs are reasonable and include all materials
- Courses count toward professional qualification and can help teachers move up the salary grid
- For more information go to [www.etfocreditcourses.ca](http://www.etfocreditcourses.ca)

### Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

September 14 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Niagara Executive Meeting
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Niagara Steward Soiree (White Oaks)
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Provincial Election ( <b>VOTE</b> )
October 25 – 26	ETFO Representative Council
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Niagara Pregnancy and Parental Leave Workshop
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	ETFO Children’s Christmas Party