

Bare Essentials: November 8, 2017



**ETFO Niagara Local, 2601 Highway #20, R.R. #1 Fonthill, ON, Units 5 & 6, L0S 1E6
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ETFO Provincial Workplace Violence Survey

ETFO is pursuing a multi-year strategy to address violence in schools. To better understand the significance and scope of workplace violence, and those procedures and policies in place to deal with workplace violence, ETFO is seeking your opinion and experiences through an online survey. The purpose of this online survey is to gather information on members' experiences with workplace violence in order to better inform ETFO's priorities for the multi-year strategy.

The survey will be open until mid-November to ensure all invited members have a chance to participate. The survey should take up to 20 minutes to complete. **If you do not receive your survey or have any questions please direct them to: surveys@stratcom.ca.**

Teachers In Positions of Added Responsibility

There are many different opportunities for ETFO members to assume positions of additional responsibility. Some of these may be as a teacher in charge, a consultant, or a temporary vice-principal. In the event that a member assumes these responsibilities, it is always important to remember that they are still ETFO members. So what are the implications of this? **ETFO members have the responsibility to uphold and abide by the collective agreement.** An example of this might be if a teacher in charge or a temporary vice-principal creates a duty schedule that does not comply with the provisions outlined in the collective agreement. Secondly, **an ETFO member can not be engaged in any activity that is evaluative of another member.** For example, members should not participate in any way in teacher performance appraisals, which includes but is not limited to providing an administrator feedback about a teacher, as this would be evaluative of another colleague. We believe that professional discourse and dialogue is the cornerstone of building a strong public education system, however, we still need to be cognizant of the rights and responsibilities of all members. If you have any questions surrounding this topic, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Classroom Assessment That Works! Two Part Workshop – Nov. 20th and Dec. 4th, 2017

ETFO Niagara will be hosting a two part workshop called Assessment That Works!, on Monday November 20th and Monday, December 4th, 2017, from 4:15 PM until 7 PM at the ETFO Niagara office.

This dynamic two-part workshop has been designed to meet and support your daily classroom assessment needs by providing you with the following:

- A variety of assessment tools and strategies, information on gathering data for feedback and reporting, and methods for using assessment data to inform instruction.
- A toolbox of assessment strategies and information that can be used to reflect on assessment practices.
- Time and an ETFO space to collaborate and brainstorm with colleagues about some of the challenges that face classroom teachers with respect to assessment practices.

- A guided tour of the ETFO Assessment Website (etfoassessment.ca) and time to explore what it has to offer in the way of efficient assessment strategies and practical tools.

Please visit <https://etfoniagaraassessmentthatworks1718.eventbrite.ca> to register. There are only 25 spots so act fast! For additional information, please view the event poster by clicking [here](#). Should you have any further questions, please contact [Melanie Brown-Robson](#), ETFO Niagara PD Chair.

ETFO Niagara Winterfesttravaganza For Kids – December 10, 2017

Our Social Committee is busy planning ETFO's Winterfesttravaganza For Kids, also known as the annual Children's Holiday Party. **This yearly event will take place on Sunday, December 10, 2017, from 1 PM to 3PM. The party will take place at Club Italia in Niagara Falls, and is free of charge.** There will be crafts, a bouncy castle, magic show and a sing along. Who knows, if you haven't been naughty there might even be a surprise guest! Since there is no cost for the event, we are asking that if you could bring a new, unwrapped toy that will be donated to the local pediatric wing of the St. Catharines, it would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up at via Eventbrite using the following link, <https://etfoniagarakidswinterfesttravaganza1718.eventbrite.ca>, by Friday, December 1, to make sure you end up on the "Nice" list!

Retirement Information Session – Thursday February 1, 2018

Are you in the last 5 years of your career and thinking about retiring? ETFO Niagara will be holding a workshop for those interested members to provide them with information to help guide them through this important life decision. **The workshop will take place on February 1, 2018, at Amici's in Thorold, beginning at 4:30PM. This workshop will be about the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, as well as benefits that are available to retirees through OTIP. There will also be a presentation by representatives of the DSNB that talk about the specifics and procedures that are required to retire from the Board.** To register for the event, sign up at <https://etfoniagararetirement1718.eventbrite.ca>. Look for a poster that will arrive shortly at your school via the courier.

Upcoming Local Workshops

ETFO Niagara is working hard to provide various workshop opportunities for members over the course of the school year, covering a vast range of diverse topics. Listed below are some of the different workshops that are being offered over the next couple of months:

- **T.P.A. Workshop – Wed, November 22, 2017** - Is it your evaluation year, or just curious about the performance appraisal process? Find out some helpful tips to assist you during this process. Register at <https://etfoniagaratpa1718.eventbrite.ca/>
- **OTIP Work/Life Balance – Wed., November 29, 2017**– In today's fast-paced world, finding balance between your career and your home-life is no simple task. One of the greatest challenges facing you as an education worker is the delicate balance between your personal and professional lives. OTIP's Life Balance and Financial Planning workshop is an opportunity for you to take control of the priorities in your life and to find your own way of handling the many demands on your time. Register at <https://etfoniagaraotipworklifebalance1718.eventbrite.ca/>
- **Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop – Thurs., January 25, 2018** – Are you a first time parent, or need a brush up on the processes involved with a pregnancy/parental leave? This workshop is designed to give the important details before the birth of your little one. Register at <https://etfoniagarapregparental1718.eventbrite.ca/>

Recognizing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada.

Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. They died because they were women. As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation, December 6 represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. It is also an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality, and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence. And finally, it is a day on which communities can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Use this day as a teachable moment, to raise awareness of this important issue. **If you'd like to show your support for this day, you can purchase a purple scarf for \$15 at any Niagara TD Branch or call Gillian's Place at 905-684-4000 ext. 233.**

Pop Goes The World! ETFO Pop Culture Trivia Night

It's that time of year again! **On Friday, February 9, 2018, ETFO Niagara will be hosting its 12th Annual Pop Culture Trivia Night. It will take place at Amici's in Thorold. The cost of the event is \$160 for a table of up to 10, with an early bird rate of \$140/table for registering prior to December 22, 2017.** All proceeds from the night will be donated to the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre in St. Catharines. To register, please send the registration form and a cheque payable to ETFO Niagara through the school courier. For additional information, please look for the poster to arrive shortly in your staffroom. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Brian Barker (vp1@etfoniagara.ca).

ETFO Awards

It's the time of year where you have the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of colleagues by nominating them for ETFO Awards. The awards are multi-disciplinary with some of the awards also having a cash prize. The deadline for application is February 1, 2018. For more information, please visit <http://www.etfo.ca/aboutetfo/awardsandscholarships/pages/default.aspx>

Health & Safety Corner: Reporting Accidents and Critical Injuries

The District School Board of Niagara must comply with the regulations respecting reporting of an accident or incident made under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Incident/accident reporting procedures must be followed in the event of an incident or an accident.

If it is a minor accident or illness:

1. Do not ignore any accident.
2. Provide any immediate assistance that is appropriate in the circumstances.
3. Take the person in need of first aid to the location of a First Aid kit and request additional assistance from someone with first aid training if needed.
4. Advise the Principal/ Supervisor of the incident.

What Is A Critical Injury and What Should You Do?:

A critical injury is an injury of a serious nature that: places life in jeopardy; produces unconsciousness; results in substantial loss of blood; involves the fracture of a leg or arm, but not a finger or toe; involves the amputation of a leg, arm, hand, or foot but not a finger or toe; consists of burns to a major portion of the body; or causes the loss of sight in an eye. In the event of a critical injury:

1. Send someone or call for additional help. **Do not leave the victim alone.**
2. Provide any immediate assistance that is appropriate in the circumstances.
3. Advise the Principal/ Supervisor of the incident.
4. Advise the helper to request that someone with first aid training come to the scene, and retrieve the master First Aid kit from the closest area.
5. Make the victim as comfortable as possible until help arrives.
6. DO NOT DISTURB the scene until there has been an investigation by both the Joint Workers' Health and Safety Committee and the Ministry of Labour

SOME CRUCIAL THINGS TO REMEMBER IN ANY EVENT:

1. Ensure that you have completed the Incident/First Aid Report, even if there is no healthcare or lost time. This also includes exposure to biological contaminants such as blood borne pathogens through a needle stick injury, or exposure to saliva (e.g. a student spits on you).
2. Before you hand in your paperwork, please fax (905-892-9733) or email a copy to the ETFO office

Thinking About Buying Winter Tires? What You Need To Know

Winter tires improve handling and overall traction in snowy, icy and slushy conditions and reduce the likelihood of collisions. They can even reduce braking distances by up to 25%! Their wider tread and softer rubber are designed to eject snow and ice and prevent skidding on the frozen roads.

When shopping for winter tires, here are a few things to remember:

- Check for a logo of a peaked mountain with a snowflake. This is how you differentiate winter tires from regular all-season tires.
- Consider the severity of weather in your area. If you get a lot of snow and ice, be sure to get tires that can handle those conditions.
- Purchase and install your winter tires in sets of four. Many retailers offer discounts for buying a set of four tires.
- Change your tires as soon as you need to. You can check how worn your tires are from the tread-wear indicators.
- Do not mix tires of different sizes or treads. This can create unsafe driving conditions.
- Check the air pressure on your tires frequently. Not only does this help with the overall safety of your vehicle, it also optimizes fuel efficiency!

It's also important to switch out your winter tires when the seasons change. Winter tires are not well suited to warmer weather conditions and they will wear much quicker. If you are diligent about changing your tires, they can last up to five years.

Contact OTIP today at 1-888-892-4935 to see if your policy qualifies for a winter tire discount.

Save The Date

Thurs., November 16, 2017 – New Teachers Seniority Draw
Mon. November 20, 2017 – Classroom Assessment That Works! Workshop (Part 1)
Wed., November 22, 2017 – TPA Workshop
Wed., November 29, 2017 – OTIP Work Life Balance Workshop
Mon. December 4, 2017 - Classroom Assessment That Works! Workshop (Part 2)
Wed., December 6, 2017 – New Steward Training Workshop
Sun., December 10, 2017 – Holiday Winter Festravaganza
Thurs., January 25, 2018 – Pregnancy/Parental Leave Workshop
Fri., February 9, 2018 – ETFO Pop Culture Trivia Night
Thurs., February 15, 2018 – Winter AGM
Fri., April 20, 2018 – ETFO Niagara Silent Auction
Wed., May 23, 2018 – Spring AGM
Thurs., June 7, 2018 – ETFO Niagara Retirement Dinner



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