

OPC

Thames Valley

Information Update

February, 2015

President's Remarks

We hope that this update finds you well and that you are finally enjoying our Canadian winter! Hopefully you are all continuing to 'make good' on your New Year's resolutions, personally, I am still convinced the dryer shrunk a few of my pants over the Christmas break ☺ No matter your intentions or progress, we hope you've had a great start to 2015!

Your OPC Executive continues to work on your behalf on a number of issues, including PVP workload, professional development opportunities for our colleagues and ensuring that our voice is represented on numerous system committees and initiatives. We also continue to hold regular meetings with our Associate Directors to discuss current issues of importance or concern. Additionally, several of our OPC core executive met with the Director before the Christmas break and we were pleased to learn that PVP workload sits atop of her list of system concerns as well. Further follow-up is forthcoming on this important issue and your input will be instrumental, as we work together with senior admin on solution based responses to improve our local as well as provincial workload concerns.

This year's Awards of Distinction nomination package is now available on our schools' and Board websites. Please consider recognizing a deserving individual in our system who has or is doing an exemplary job. Nomination packages are due at the Education Centre by February 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Once again, please be aware of the balance of your professional development account which can be found through your school's portal. As you may know, Principals and Vice-Principals receive annual allocations of \$1200 and \$800 respectively. Please also note that carry forward amounts are capped at \$3800 for Principals and \$2200 for Vice-Principals. Retiring administrators are required to use any professional development expenditure within 120 calendar days of retirement unless approved otherwise. If you are planning on retiring this June, you may wish to have a discussion with your Superintendent before March 1 if you plan on spending your remaining PD funds, so as to ensure you have their approval prior to any expense commitments.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our second General Meeting scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on February 12 at Stoneridge. The format of this General Meeting will deviate slightly from our usual dinner meeting agenda. We plan on beginning with a social, during which time we hope to have a very short business meeting at 5:00 p.m. followed by an address from our Provincial OPC President, John Hamilton. Appetizers and a complimentary drink ticket will be provided. We hope to have our meeting wrapped up shortly after 6 p.m. John Hamilton will speak at approximately 5:15 p.m. followed by a Q&A opportunity. We will also welcome several of our senior administrative associate members this evening as well.

Have a wonderful month of February and feel welcome to contact any of our Executive members should you have further questions or require our support.

Jason Pratt
President, OPC Thames Valley

Terms & Conditions

Recently we have had some inquiries about how to access the Terms & Conditions documents. This document can be accessed through First Class by doing the following:

- 1) open First Class
- 2) click on the Human Resources icon
- 3) click on the Principals/VPs icon
- 4) click on the Terms & Conditions and the Benefits icons

OPC Membership Discount Programs

Did you know that there are discount programs for OPC members? They include GoodLife and Via Rail among others. For more details, visit our provincial OPC website at <https://www.principals.ca//Display.aspx?cid=5734&pid=4436>

OPC Assistance

Members are reminded that, if at any time they find themselves in a situation where they have questions or feel the need for additional support, they are encourage to contact OPC either locally or provincially.

The local executive would be happy to provide advice or assistance up to and including supporting members in a difficult meeting situation where such support is requested.

Where the situation would be better handled by provincial representation your local executive will encourage members to seek that assistance while providing the support possible at the local level.

OPC both locally and provincially are there to support the members. Please do not hesitate to seek this assistance at any time.

Professional Development

Members are often interested in learning about web sites that can provide them with valuable information regarding conferences.

The web site www.cde.ca.gov/re/ca/cc/ is one that members may find helpful.

General Meeting

Members are reminded of the General Meeting, Feb.12/15 at the Stoneridge Inn.

This meeting is a social format with snacks and a beverage ticket provided at no cost to members.

While the meeting is largely an opportunity to network with colleagues, there will be a very brief business component and a very important presentation by our provincial president, John Hamilton.

Member Involvement

Appreciation is extended to the following members for representing OPC Thames Valley:

Secondary Staffing – **Joan Cooper, Devon Weeden, Paul Sydor**

SEAC – **Dan Clarke, Tiffany Birtch**

SPECTRA – **Jim Robertson**

Suicide Prevention – **Richard Pincombe**

Elementary Occasional Bargaining Committee – **Janet Lee**

CUPE 4222A (Custodial & Maintenance) Bargaining Committee – **Dave LeConte**

CUPE 4222B (Office & Clerical) Bargaining Committee – **Wayne Searles**

CUPE 4222D (ECE) Bargaining Committee – **Linda Westaway**

CUPE 7575 (EA) Bargaining Committee – **Corene Jovichevich**

OPC Scholarship Awards:

OPC members may make application to OPC - Thames Valley on behalf of their children for an educational scholarship. A committee will be established which will review all applications and select the recipients. Detailed information was sent out in January and will be reissued on an ongoing basis.

Your Executive At Work

Some of the issues that the executive has been dealing with recently include:

Staffing, Terms & Conditions, Reg.274, Texting, Workload, Unfilled Occasional Positions, Professional Development

Jason Pratt
OPC President

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