

September 2009

Of the 7 Bargaining Units in District 18, the Teachers Bargaining Unit (TBU) is the largest. It represents about half of the total district membership with about 760 members. Our members work in 11 different high schools as well as several in Continuing Education and Residential School facilities in the Upper Grand District School Board. Four of our schools are in Guelph, two in Orangeville and one each in Erin, Fergus, Mount Forest, Palmerston and Shelburne.

We have now completed the first year of a 4 year Collective Agreement which was ratified in the Spring of 2008 and expires on August 31, 2012. Members are asked to keep their copy of the agreement for reference and information. Our Chief Negotiator, Paul Rawlinson and myself will be visiting schools throughout the year to answer questions and be available by phone if assistance is needed concerning your contract. Also, refer to the CBC portion of this webpage or talk to the CBC Representative in your school.

Our TBU is one of only a few around the province who owns and manages their own Benefit Plans, including Health, Dental, Life and Long Term Disability. This gives us greater flexibility in determining the plan designs as we do not have to negotiate this with the Board. There is a Benefits Committee Representative at each worksite to oversee the plan. For further information refer to the Benefits Section of the website or ask for a hard copy of the plan from your school representative (Branch President).

We enjoy a good collaborative working relationship with the Board. While we do not agree on every issue, we are usually able to reach agreement in a timely fashion through informal discussions or via a well defined grievance process. We also receive outstanding support from our Provincial Office. This year, Sue Rab is our Provincial Executive Liaison and Bev Wilson is our Secretariat Liaison.

I am currently completing my second two year term as TBU President following three years as Vice President. I look forward to meeting with members, perhaps through a school visit or over the phone as the TBU team provides the services that you need and want.

Please feel free to contact me at the District Office any time if you need assistance. OSSTF is a positive and powerful resource that is here for you to use. Have a great teaching year.

In Solidarity

Mac Howson

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