



THE DISPATCH

SEPTEMBER 2022

For questions, please call the office at
(416) 227-1866



Local Pocket Calendar

By popular demand, our local produces a pocket calendar annually to distribute to members at the beginning of the school year.

The calendar is full of important and useful information including pay information, pay dates, local information and how to contact your released officers, TDSB contact information, TDSB Webmail and SFE information, as well as what to do if there has been an allegation against you.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL

We hope you had a restful, restorative, and fun summer. It has been a very challenging couple of years for everyone.

Occasional teachers have always played an essential and pivotal role, but this came into clear focus during the COVID pandemic. Not only are we skilled educators but we have a superpower - flexibility. We have an uncanny ability to adapt and to seamlessly pick up where another teacher left off both in daily work and in LTOs.

Your local is here to support you in your profession, provide professional learning programming and advocate for you when the Collective Agreement is being violated. Please go to the local's website for more detailed information about the local:

<https://effo-torots.org>

You will find the current Collective Agreement, the local's Constitution/Local Reference Manual, past and present Dispatch Newsletters, pay and health benefits Information, TDSB documents, A Member's Guide to WSIB, Pregnancy and Parental Leave: A Guide to Rights and Responsibilities, health and safety information, local events, and professional learning opportunities, executive meeting minutes and so much more.



BARGAINING YEAR

Even though the membership ratified the current local Collective Agreement (CA) at the end of 2021, that CA expired August 31, 2022. However, it remains in place and active until the bargaining process with the TDSB is complete and a new agreement is ratified by the membership.

So, your local's Collective Bargaining team will be heading back into bargaining with the TDSB this school year. Before they do, the local executive will be creating a survey that will be sent and made available to all local members. The local wants your input and to know what you believe the priorities should be.

ETFO Provincial began central bargaining in the summer and have dates scheduled into September. If you have any questions about ETFO Provincial's central bargaining process you can contact ETFO, through its Collective Bargaining (CB) website, and have those questions answered. Use the Contact Us option on the CB website:

<https://effocb.ca/stay-in-touch-2/contact-us/>

Our local Collective Agreement provides us with rights in the workplace and is only as strong as the members who stand behind it. Standing up for our rights ensures that others will have them when they need them.

Stay tuned for the survey which will be coming out this autumn!

2022-2023 LOCAL EXECUTIVE



PRESIDENT
CHRISTINA MEYNELL



1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
MARISA GALLIPPI



2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
SARAH BOOMHOWER



TREASURER
GAIL JAMES



SECRETARY
LAURA BARRETT

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- ★ GABRIELLE BLAIS-JONES
- ★ SHARON BROWN
- ★ SUJATHA CHINTAKUNTA
- ★ RINAT EVRON
- ★ FLETCHER JEROME
- ★ RENEE MASSOP
- ★ JEISHAN RAJAKULASINGAM



New Local Email Contact Information!

Your local's released officers (the folks who work in the local's office) are Christina Meynell, Marisa Gallippi, Sarah Boomhower and Gail James. The local will no longer be using ICA WebMail. Moving forward, the released officers are using the following email addresses:

- ✉ Christina.Meynell@etfo.torots.org
- ✉ Marisa.Gallippi@etfo.torots.org
- ✉ Sarah.Boomhower@etfo.torots.org
- ✉ Gail.James@etfo.torots.org

The released officers are working in the local's office at the **TDSB's Fairmeadow Centre:**

ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers' Local
17 Fairmeadow Ave. Suite 209
Toronto, ON
M2P 1W6

By Board Courier: Fairmeadow Centre Route NE

☎ **416.227.1866**

If you are seeking additional information from the Local, these are the official local sites to find this information:

- 🌐 www.etfo-torots.org
- 🐦 @ETFOTorontoOT on Twitter
- 📘 ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers



Keeping Our OTs Safe: **Zero Touch Policy**

THROWBACK ALERT! This article was published in the 2012, 2016 and 2017 Dispatch and remains an important message to all Occasional Teachers in the TDSB. **The TDSB has [a clear] policy of 'no touch' when employees interact with students, particularly when it relates to discipline or classroom control.** For this reason, it is critical that all members take precautionary steps to avoid any physical contact with students.

Any time a teacher, particularly an Occasional Teacher, crosses the boundaries around touch, they are putting themselves at **risk of an allegation** of physical harm or emotional trauma (PR 560). There is **no safe touch** in the relationship between a teacher and a student no matter how innocent or well-meaning your intentions. You cannot anticipate either the reaction or interpretation of the child or their parent(s)/guardian(s).

The stress on a member who faces an allegation cannot be overstated. **Don't put yourself at risk.**



Please refer to ETFO PRS Matters Bulletin, "**Professional Boundaries: An Important Issue For You...**" located on the ETFO Secure: [https://members.etfo.ca/resources/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/3-professional-boundaries-an-important-issue-for-you.../professional-boundaries-an-important-issue-for-you...-\(3\)](https://members.etfo.ca/resources/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/3-professional-boundaries-an-important-issue-for-you.../professional-boundaries-an-important-issue-for-you...-(3))

CONSIDER JOINING ONE OF THE LOCAL'S COMMITTEES

The local has several committees that support and structure the operations of the local. There is wide variety to choose from depending on your interests. Please consider joining a committee. To join committees, send an email to events@efo.torots.org and specify which one(s) you want to participate in.

List of Standing Committees:

- Budget
- Constitution
- Elections
- Equity and Social Justice
- New Members
- Political Action
- Professional Development
- Racialized Members
- Social
- Status of Women



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It's a new school year and a new leadership team with new goals and new energy!

It is with respect and gratitude that I begin my tenure as president of the ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers' Local and my first President's Message.

There is so much to achieve this year and it all begins with a cohesive and collaborative executive team where ideas are encouraged, and initiatives are launched. The well-being and best interests of you – the members - will be the centre of all our work. It is our job to advocate for your Collective Agreement rights, as well as, equity, and social justice in the workplace.

I believe it is my role as president to create an environment where all members feel safe, heard, and valued.

I will ensure your questions are answered accurately. When I don't know, I will seek out the correct answer. I will advocate for you collectively and individually. It is my mission to send out regular communications and keep the website updated to inform and engage members.

The beginning of every school year comes with a mix of excitement and anxiety. With that in mind, I wish you a positive start to the year. You've got this and your union local has your back.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Meynell'.

Christina Meynell