

SPRING 2026

THE DISPATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ETFO-TORONTO OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' LOCAL

Message from your President

As March Break approaches, I want to sincerely thank you for the dedication, care, and professionalism you bring to your work each day. Your commitment to students and to public education makes a difference in every classroom you enter.

Our Local is strongest because of members like you.

This year continues to present serious challenges for our OT members — limited visibility of SFE jobs, increased reliance on ERPs, rising classroom violence, and reduced supports and resources. These issues are not just workplace concerns; they are matters that require collective action. Your Local Union is actively advocating, raising concerns with the Board, and pushing for meaningful solutions. We are committed to fighting the good fight for all members — but real progress depends on an engaged and informed membership.

Grassroots advocacy starts with you.

When members share their experiences, complete surveys, attend meetings, speak up, and stand together, we strengthen our collective voice. The Collective Bargaining Survey will be a critical tool in shaping our priorities for negotiations with the TDSB in 2026. Your participation will directly inform our demands and guide the work of the Executive and Collective Bargaining Committee. The priorities developed from your input will be brought forward for ratification at an all-member meeting — because this is your union, and your voice matters. I also encourage you to deepen your involvement at the local level. Join a committee. Attend an event. Connect with colleagues. Grassroots strength is built member by member, conversation by conversation. When we are visible, united, and engaged, we are far more powerful at the bargaining table and beyond.

March Break is a well-earned opportunity to rest and recharge. Take time for yourself, your family, and your community. When we return, we continue this work together — organized, determined, and ready.

We are not just responding to challenges. We are building collective strength. And we are just getting started.



IN SOLIDARITY,
Marisa Gallippi

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

NOTICE

**Motions for the
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NOTICE

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NOTICE

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2026-2027**

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ETFO-TORONTO OCCASIONAL TEACHERS' LOCAL

THE EXECUTIVE

MARISA GALLIPPI
President

LAURA BARRETT
First Vice-President

GABRIELLE BLAIS-JONES
Vice President

SOPHIE KROESEN
Vice President

GAIL JAMES
Treasurer

K. JUSTIN NGO
Secretary

SUJATHA CHINTAKUNTA
Executive Member

BEVERLEY FLYNN-SAMUELS
Executive Member

NATHAN GOVEAS
Executive Member

MELISSA MAJOR
Executive Member

JEISHAN RAJAKULASINGAM
Executive Member
TDSB Joint Health & Safety
Committee Representative
TDSB Health & Safety Inspector

THEO SHIVNARAIN
Executive Member

Motions to Amend the Local Constitution 2026

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held on May 12 & May 14, 2026

As per the 2025-2026 Constitution/Local Reference Manual
(Updated: January 29, 2026)

Section 2 – Local Annual Meeting 8.2.1 A Local Annual Meeting of the members of ETFO–Toronto Occasional Teachers' Local shall be held no later than May 31, of each year. . 8.2.2 The Local Annual Meeting shall: a) receive the annual reports of the officers and committees of the Local; b) approve the budget for the next fiscal year; c) appoint the auditor; d) consider amendments to the Local Constitution in accordance with Article XII; 8.2.3 Quorum shall be 75% of the members present at the time the meeting is called to order. Quorum cannot be less than 50 members. Should quorum be lost, no further business can be conducted.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL CONSTITUTION

12.1.1 Proposed amendments to the Local Constitution must be submitted to the Local office in writing or by email no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Local Annual Meeting.

12.2.1 All proposed constitutional amendments shall be posted on the Local's website at least 14 days prior to the Local Annual Meeting.

12.3.1 Amendments to the Constitution may be made at the Local Annual Meeting by the affirmative vote of at least 60% of the members present.

If you wish to email proposed amendments, please email our Parliamentarian at: yolandabdacy@gmail.com

The deadline for receipt of motions to amend the Local Constitution is April 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBER SURVEY:

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING GOOGLE FORM TO LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERRED ANNUAL MEETING FORMAT (VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON):

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/HQWNMAFMV94SPGGW9](https://forms.gle/HQWNMAFMV94SPGGW9)



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Notice! **ELECTED DELEGATES**

ETFO Annual Meeting Delegates 2026

Congratulations

Andrew Chittka

Cynthia McCarrey

Danielle Ingster

Efstathia Sotiropoulos

Gabrielle Blais-Jones

Gail James

Jason Martorino

Jeishan Rajakulasingam

K. Justin Ngo

Laura Barrett

Loreen Gale

Marisa Gallippi

Melissa Major

Nathan Goveas

Sarah Boomhower

Sophie Kroesen

<https://etfo-torots.org/etfo-annual-meeting-delegates-august-2026-results/>

4.4.12 THE NUMBER AND NAMES OF ALTERNATES ARE DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE AT AN EXECUTIVE MEETING ONCE THE SUCCESSFUL DELEGATES HAVE BEEN ELECTED. THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATES SHALL BE DEPENDENT UPON THE OVERALL AVAILABILITY OF THE DELEGATES. THOSE WHO HAVE RUN UNSUCCESSFULLY AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE LOCAL PREVIOUSLY SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.

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Notice! ELECTIONS AHEAD

Election of your 2026-2027 Executive

As per our 2025-2026 Constitution/Local Reference Manual (Updated: January 29, 2026)

Section 3 – Election Procedures

9.3.1 All elections of the Executive shall be conducted at the Local Annual Meeting.

9.3.5 Votes will be counted in order of President, First Vice-President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Member. If a candidate is successful for a position, his/her name will be removed from subsequent vote counts. In the case of a tie for an Officer position or for the final Executive Member position, a re-vote will be held between the tied candidates only.

9.3.6 Each candidate or scrutineer of the candidate's choice may observe the counting of the ballots. A scrutineer must be a member of the Local.

9.3.7 The candidate with the highest vote count for each position shall be declared elected, subject to

9.3.5. 13 9.3.8 The vote count for all elected positions shall be released to the members and posted on the Local website within two (2) school days.



For candidate profiles,
click on the link
<https://etfo-torots.org/executive-elections/>



FOR LOCAL EXECUTIVE POSITIONS
2026 - 2027

ANNUAL MEETING DATES:
MAY 12TH AND MAY 14TH, 2026



PRESIDENT
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT (OPEN)
VICE-PRESIDENT (WOMEN ONLY)
TREASURER
SECRETARY
SIX (6) ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
THREE (3) POSITIONS (OPEN)
THREE (3) POSITIONS (WOMEN ONLY)

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[HTTPS://ETFO-TOROTS.ORG/EXECUTIVE-ELECTION-PAGE/](https://etfo-torots.org/executive-election-page/)

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Message From you Treasurer

Hello Toronto Occasional Teachers' Local membership!

I am pleased to have been appointed and then acclaimed as our Local Treasurer for the next year and look forward to working with the Executive and the Budget Committee to establish fiscal policy and practices that will best serve the needs of our membership. A believer in local democracy and responsibly spending funds where needed, when needed, I appreciate the opportunity to work in this role with our Executive to help find ways to best engage our membership, particularly as this next round of Collective Bargaining is on our doorstep.

Thank you for the opportunity to work for and with you, and I look forward to connecting in the months ahead.

Andrew Chittka



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WORK SAFETY



SAFETY FIRST



PROTECTION



REGULATIONS



HAZARDS



HEALTH



INSURANCE

If you experience an accident or injury at work, fill out an Employee's Report of Accident / Injury (ERA) as soon as possible. Even if the injury seems minor, documentation is useful in case of future complications. It is a good idea to document a workplace injury with a healthcare provider.

If you lose time due to a workplace accident or injury (if seeking medical assistance caused you to leave before the end of your assignment or cancel prebooked jobs), this will trigger a process via the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), by which you can be compensated for at the time lost due to accident or injury.

If you witness violence between students, you have a legal obligation to report it, using the Caring and safe schools form (accessed via the ERWVI pathway). Information can be found here: <https://etfo-torots.org/health-safety-reporting/>

If you experience violence on the job, report it to a supervisor/admin and complete the Employee's Report of a Workplace Violent Incident (ERWVI) as soon as possible. If this resulted in an injury, you will also need to fill out the ERAI form.



IMPORTANT!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE UNSAFE WORK.

This plays out differently in school-based settings than in other professions, because of our supervisory obligations, but it is a right under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Reimbursements:

Available for courses taken between June 2025 and June 2026, can be claimed once completed Form is available here:

<https://forms.gle/LJpVYeTA3Ci5JFJk6>

\$3,798.85 in reimbursements have been approved so far this year (20 for Professional Learning, 2 for Professional Learning Resources)

Committee:

Difficult Conversations Workshop hosted in November

Upcoming workshops:

April 1st: Classroom Management for Occasional Teachers - <https://forms.gle/rM6PsA46W3k6hQ6v6>

April 15th: Special Education Needs in the Regular Classroom - Behavioural Needs

April 23rd: Professional Boundaries Workshop



STATUS OF WOMEN



The committee hosted two successful events this year!

The first was a *Take Back the Night* movie night, which enabled excellent conversations as members shared their lived experiences. The second event, an International Women's Day *Coffee Klatch*, featured members sharing favourite poems and quotes by women, such as Ayesha Islam's "Let's Fly Together."

Keep an eye on the Local Constant Contact for our Annual Wellness Conference coming up in June!

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SOCIAL

Winter Petition Signing Event

On the evening of February 11, 2026 the ETFO Toronto Occasional Teachers Local organized a petition signing event at Yorkdale-Pickle Barrel. Dinner, games and door prizes were enjoyed by over 70 members! Members got a chance to connect, socialize over tasty treats, and learn about Bill 33 and the overreach from the Ford government. Stay tuned for more events from the Social Committee in the new year!



PREP LOSS TRACKING

If you're a Daily OT or in an LTO and losing your scheduled preps, please fill out the Prep Loss Google Form found here:

<https://etfo-torots.org/local-forms/>

Please also share a link to a document listing the date, school name, job number, name of teacher you are replacing, and period(s) of prep time (with length of prep) missed.



2SLGBTQIA+ Lending Library
The 2SLGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee is building a lending library of materials to support our members around 2SLGBTQIA+ issues in education. Please stay tuned for more details later this spring!



JOIN A LOCAL COMMITTEE

If you are interested in joining a local committee, please click on the link to register your request for the 2025-2026 school year, please click here.

<https://etfo-torots.org/join-a-local-committee/>

Requests to join a committee can be ongoing throughout the year and are conditional on the availability of space on the committee.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

The current collective agreement is posted on our website - if you're unsure of something happening at a school, give us a call!



A Few Notes To Remember

- Please try to pick up work as much as possible to ensure the 30-day minimum to stay on the OT roster is met
- REMINDER: OCT Annual Membership Fee of \$200 due by April 15, 2026
Check the OCT website at www.oct.ca to confirm if you have paid your 2026 annual membership fee. There is reinstatement fee if you renew your membership after April 15, 2026
- Complete your compliance training
- Complete your Vulnerable Sector Check
- Remember to complete the online renewal survey after May 31st, 2026 and before the last day of work/school to communicate your intention to stay on the OT roster



[CLICK HERE FOR THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT SURVEY](#)

THE 2025-2026 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING TEAM

MARISA GALLIPPI, President

SOPHIE KROESEN, Lead Negotiator / Vice-President

LAURA BARRETT, First Vice-President

GABRIELLE BLAIS-JONES, Vice-President

JEISHAN RAJAKULASINGAM, Executive Member
TDSB Joint Health & Safety Inspector

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For a complete list of upcoming local events, please check the local's website at www.etfo-torots.org/events Local events are posted on the local's website for all members to access. Members will be given equitable consideration for events when registered by the indicated deadline.

Please contact a Local Released Officer if you are going to file for your teachers' pension, to be included in the retirement presentation at the Annual Meeting.



Thank you for all that you do. Your professionalism, commitment, and hard work does not go unnoticed!



✉ Marisa Gallippi, President
mgallippi@etfo-torots.org

✉ Laura Barrett, First Vice-President
lbarrett@etfo-torots.org

✉ Gabrielle Blais-Jones, Vice-President
gblaisjones@etfo-torots.org

Sophie Kroesen, Lead Negotiator/ Vice-President
✉ skroesen@etfo-torots.org

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