

### PROVINCIAL AGM 2009

During this past March Break your Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit delegation once again represented the Unit at the 2009 Provincial AGM. Despite much debate and a very close vote there will be an increase to the annual OECTA fee equal to .12% of a members grid salary. The OECTA fee is now an amalgam of \$950.00 plus .12% of a member's salary. In essence, the combination of these two components will represent an individual member's fee (the range of the increase will be from \$51.00 to \$107.00 depending on grid placement).

This fee increase – the first in four years - occurred despite the sustained and significant efforts by our delegates who were actively involved in the fee debate. Our delegation's arguments were ultimately insufficient in swaying the prevailing sentiment. In the end the requisite number of delegates present at the AGM carried the day when it came to increasing the fee – the margin of the vote was 3%.

### LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

On a previous Info fax dated February 17, 2009 the members were assured that they would be informed when the official decision regarding the **two additional school** dates was reached. This was to occur after the decision of which two days would be selected was official notice was given to all employees by the school Board.

By now you have been made aware that the two days selected by the Board in order to be in compliance with the Education Act will be, **Wednesday, September 2, 2009 and Thursday, September 3, 2009**. These days will be Ministry Professional Activity Days and not Instructional Days i.e. no students will be attending school nor will classes run.

It should also be noted that in the aftermath of this year's complex process, the Board and the Unit have both articulated that the Ministry of Education needs to engage the process of determining the length and structure of the school year much earlier in future years so that appropriate plans and preparations can be made in a timely manner that respects the needs and commitments of all of the stakeholders and their families.

Dufferin Peel Secondary Unit

President: Gian Marcon

Teacher Welfare: Peter MacDonald

Health & Safety: Brian Heimbecker

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# ... Info-Fax • from the **DPSU** offices ...

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That being said, the likelihood of required attendance by Teachers before Labour Day in the future has increased and will occur more regularly than in the past. This is because the length of the school year is determined by the Education Act which dictates a school year must be a minimum of 194 days in length. These days have typically and historically been scheduled between Labour Day and June 30<sup>th</sup> of any given school year.

In future however, any years when fewer than 194 potential instructional days are available between Labour Day and June 30<sup>th</sup> will require decisions similar to what transpired this year decision process wherein the Unit – through the Modified School Year Committee – will advise and recommend to the Board the placement and nature of any days of compulsory Teacher attendance.

## **Legislation Committee and AGM Resolutions**

The Legislation Committee meeting where any and all resolutions pertaining to our **DPSU By-laws, Policies and Procedures** will be processed, will take place on April 14, 2009 at the DPSU office commencing at 3:45PM.

It is important to appreciate that this is the only opportunity for members to bring any resolutions to the 2009 Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit Annual General Meeting. Our By-laws currently dictate that all resolutions to be considered by the membership at the Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit Annual General Meeting require a 21-day notice period and as such any changes to **the DPSU By-laws, Policies and Procedures** must be presented to the Legislation Committee by April 14, 2009.

Any member wishing to submit a resolution for consideration to the 2009 *Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit Annual General Meeting* must do so in writing by April 14, 2009 or they may attend the meeting with a written outline of their proposed resolution which the Committee members can help them formulate.

Our By-laws dictate that the only elements that can be introduced from the floor of the *Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit Annual General Meeting* are Action Directives. Therefore, it is most important that members who wish to introduce resolutions at this year's *Dufferin-Peel Secondary Unit Annual General Meeting* avail themselves of the previously outlined opportunities.

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