

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

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TO BE COPIED AND SHARED WITH ALL MEMBERS

## COMMUNIQUE



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# PENSION UPDATE

## PENSION BUYBACK RULES

If you take time off to study, travel, or have a family, and your leave is board approved, you may be eligible to buy the credit for the time you're away from work.

Many members of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) already understand the value of buying back time for their leaves of absence. Doing so may help you retire a little earlier under the 85 Factor while improving your pension, since the more years of credit you accumulate, the higher your pension will be.

As a result of recently signed amendments to Schedule 1 to the *Teachers' Pension Act*, beginning next September, members will see changes to the rules for buybacks. You will have more options for repayment and other improvements.

Watch for the Spring 2010 issue of the OTPP's *Pensionwise* magazine for a full announcement of the changes and how they will affect your options.

Dufferin Peel Secondary Unit

President: Gian Marcon    First Vice: Maria DeBerardinis    Teacher Welfare: Peter MacDonald    Health & Safety: Brian Heimbecker

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## QECCO & JANUARY 1 CATEGORY ADJUSTMENT

As a result of the new Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement salary adjustments based on a QECCO evaluation can become effective January 1 as per Article 4.018 of the contract:

*4.018 A Teacher, who before the beginning of the school year, has met all the conditions required for a certificate of a higher level, is entitled to an adjustment in salary as of the school term commencing either September 1 or January 1 provided the following conditions are met:*

*To qualify for a January 1<sup>st</sup> adjustment, the Teacher must have completed course requirements prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> and must submit to the Human Resources Department by April 30<sup>th</sup> of that year, a revised Q.E.C.O. evaluation or Q.E.C.O. acknowledgement card.*

## LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

As per the process that was engaged last year the Board and the Unit both articulated that the Ministry of Education needed 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 could be made in a timely manner that respected the needs and commitments of all of the stakeholders and their families.

To this end the members were assured that they would be informed when the official decision regarding the **pre-labour day school day** for this upcoming school year was reached. While the decision of which day will be selected is yet to be officially approved and due to the fact that official notice will not be communicated to all employees by the school Board until late March, the Unit feels compelled to communicate on this issue.

Once again emphasizing the unofficial nature of this information, it is likely that the day selected by the Board in order to be in compliance with the Education Act will be, **Thursday, September 2, 2010**. This day will be Ministry Professional Activity Day and not Instructional Day i.e. no students will be attending school nor will classes run.

Members are expected to be at school and working on **September 2, 2010** as this day will be a paid and required workday. Make your plans accordingly and the Unit will provide official verification once the Board has affirmed its final decision.

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