

Memo # 8

To: OECTA Secondary Teachers

From: Michele MacDonald

Re: Community College Strike; Winter Tires what you need to know

1. As you may be aware, the unionized faculty (OPSEU) at Ontario's community colleges are on strike. As always, it is the Association's expectation that members will not engage in any activity that would undermine the strike action of our OPSEU brothers and sisters. This is the time of year where college fairs and presentations are taking place; either on college campuses or in our schools. The Association has asked that we inform our members that they are not to participate in these college fairs and/or presentations as it undermines the strike actions. If you are directed by school or board administration to participate, you should contact the unit office immediately.

2. Thinking about buying winter tires? Here's what you need to know - Winter tires improve handling and overall traction in snowy, icy and slushy conditions and reduce the likelihood of collisions. They can even reduce braking distances by up to 25%! Their wider tread and softer rubber are designed to eject snow and ice and prevent skidding on the frozen roads.

When shopping for winter tires, here are a few things to remember:

- Check for a logo of a peaked mountain with a snowflake. This is how you differentiate winter tires from regular all-season tires.
- Consider the severity of weather in your area. If you get a lot of snow and ice, be sure to get tires that can handle those conditions.
- Purchase and install your winter tires in sets of four. Many retailers offer discounts for buying a set of four tires.
- Change your tires as soon as you need to. You can check how worn your tires are from the tread-wear indicators.
- Do not mix tires of different sizes or treads. This can create unsafe driving conditions.
- Check the air pressure on your tires frequently. Not only does this help with the overall safety of your vehicle, it also optimizes fuel efficiency!

It's also important to switch out your winter tires when the seasons change. Winter tires are not well suited to warmer weather conditions and they will wear much quicker. If you are diligent about changing your tires, they can last up to five years.

Contact OTIP today at 1-888-892-4935 to see if your policy qualifies for a winter tire discount.

PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL OECTA MEMBERS