

Memo # 13

To: OECTA Secondary Teachers

From: Michele MacDonald

Re: Possible First Student Canada Bus Driver Strike; Movember Social; National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; Public Engagement on Education Assessment;

1. Some of you may have heard that First Student Canada Bus Drivers in Durham may be going on strike, it is not anticipated that it will spill into our area, but in the event of a job action by the First Student Canada Bus Drivers, the following will assist you during the sanction:

- You may be delayed at your worksite by the picket line, remain calm and be patient. Wait for the picket line to allow you to cross.
- Please do not engage in debate with striking workers on the picket line.
- You are encouraged to show signs of support. For example, joining the picket line over lunch, providing snacks, etc.
- Should a member feel concern for their safety approaching the picket line, contact the Unit office and advise the unit president of the situation.

During the work day OECTA members must only perform the duties of a teacher. OECTA members must not perform duties that belong to First Student Canada bus drivers. This includes driving students to events due to the unavailability of bus transportation.

Excursions which normally require bus transportation, even those already scheduled, should be cancelled or delayed until the job action is concluded.

Supervision may become an issue during the strike, especially at the end of the day, as parents arrange for pick-up. Although the Education Act requires teachers to ensure the safety of their students, this does not include unreasonable time demands. If members are asked to continue to supervise beyond regularly scheduled times this is to be included towards the collective agreement maximum of 1100 minutes. As well, members should contact the Unit office if students are not being picked up in a timely fashion to avoid excessive demands on a member's completion of the school day.

2. Don't forget that the Movember Social is scheduled for Thursday, November 30th from 4-7 p.m. at the Flying Monkeys in Barrie. Come out and support those who grew a moustache for men's prostate cancer and mental health awareness. It is a great evening to come and share a laugh or two with your colleagues. Looking forward to seeing you there!!

3. The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is commemorated in Canada each year on December 6. On this day in 1989, 14 young women were murdered in a tragic act of gender violence at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. This day reminds us to consider the women and girls for whom violence is an everyday reality and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

One way to take concrete action to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls is to raise awareness in our classrooms and schools. On December 6, include school announcements and prayers that address gender violence. Sample announcements and prayers are attached. As well, on the OECTA website in the Member's Area you will find We Remember Through Action, a commemorative resource guide for intermediate and senior grades, which provides ideas and links to classroom resources for teachers to facilitate problem solving and discussion in the classroom:

www.catholicteachers.ca/For-Your-Classroom/Curriculum-Resources/Other

You are also encouraged to participate in the YWCA Rose Campaign. Ways of participating in this campaign are numerous: you can order buttons, posters, bookmarks, videos; you can send a message to your MP encouraging him/her to take action; you can participate in "Light the Night" on December 6, and light your school with red lights on December 6. Information about all the different aspects of the campaign, including ordering materials, can be found at:

<http://ywcacanada.ca/en/pages/rose/about>.

Locally the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women will be taking place at the City Hall Rotunda from 6-8 p.m. Come out and show your support.



4. On Monday November 27, 2017, the Ministry held a public engagement on education assessment at Liberty North. The event was not well attended nor was it well advertised. I did take part in the engagement, but I would encourage you all to take part in the survey which can be found at:

www.OntarioALearningProvince.ca

In order to be considered for the report please submit your feedback and input by Friday, December 15, 2017. The report is to be ready for the public in March 2018. Take part and have your voice be heard!!!

PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE TO ALL OECTA MEMBERS