

**Memo #13**

Date: January 9, 2019

To: Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers

Re: **Women's March; OTIP Teaching Awards; OTIP News; Pay Increase**

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**Women's March**

Women's March activists across the globe are mobilizing on **January 19<sup>th</sup>** to defend their rights and their democracy. People will gather in cities across the world for the Women's March to demonstrate solidarity and push for social justice for the most marginalized and oppressed among us.

The Ford government is ramping up their attacks on workers, public services, and our communities. The political direction of the Ford government is harming women and girls in this province. Its wrong-headed direction works to erode the progress made.

We march into power—to drive a powerful intersectional movement of movements.

We march to stand up and fight back—for any woman who is attacked for her race, religion, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or how she looks.

We march to bring more women into the resistance—to take the energy of this march and use it to set fires of resistance everywhere.

We march because women continue to face significant inequalities in the workplace, including discriminatory pay and employment practices.

Marches are organized either by Women March ON, which are local community organizing groups (search for your community march on Facebook) or Women's March

Canada: [www.womensmarchcanada.com/2019\\_marches](http://www.womensmarchcanada.com/2019_marches)

There are two events scheduled in our "area" – one in Muskoka (Huntsville) and one in Toronto (Nathan Philips Square) both from 12 pm to 3 pm.

**OTIP Teaching Awards**

Nominations are open for the 2019 awards. The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 31, 2019.

There are three categories of awards: elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher and beginning teacher in the first five years of teaching. A teacher may be nominated by anyone – professional colleagues, students, parents, or the general public.

The Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) and the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) are proud sponsors of the OTIP Teaching Awards. For many years, these awards have recognized the excellence of our teachers in publicly funded education.

Further information is available at [www.teachingawards.ca](http://www.teachingawards.ca).

## **OTIP News**

### **What to do if you get in a car accident:**

Car accidents usually occur without warning. Although you may take every safety precaution possible, the unexpected can still happen. If you find yourself in a car accident, here are some tips to keep in mind: [www.otipinsurance.com/article31](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article31)

### **Tenant Insurance, is it Worth it?**

About 34 per cent of Canadians rent their homes, yet more than half of Canadian renters (58.2 per cent)<sup>1</sup> are living without any tenant insurance coverage. While tenants are not currently required to have a tenant insurance policy in place, most are confused about the level of coverage available through their landlord's insurance. Below is a list of three reasons why you should have a tenant insurance policy.

To learn more, visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article32](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article32)

### **Pay Increase**

Please note that on the pay period preceding February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (January 24<sup>th</sup>) you will be receiving a **1%** increase. This is not a lump sum, this is a 1% increase on grid. If you would like to review the pay grids, please log in to our local website ([www.oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca](http://www.oectasimcoemuskoka.on.ca)) and click on the Elementary drop down menu and click on Collective Bargaining Agreement – you will find the up-to-date grids.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815**