

**To: All Secondary Teachers**  
**From: Allyn Janicki**

**Tuesday April 16th 2019**  
**Memo #19**

**Interpreting the Budget**

OECTA Provincial has provided the following information regarding Ontario's most recent Budget:

- \$1.4 billion tax cut for business in 2019-20, \$3.8 billion in tax relief over 6 years
- Balanced budget by 2023-24
- \$1 billion over five years to create 30 000 child care spaces including 10 000 spaces in new schools
- Child care tax credit which would provide 300 000 families up to 75% of their eligible child care expenses which is coming out of the education funding envelope
- Free dental care for low income seniors who lack benefits and earn less than \$19 300 annually
- Investing \$3.8 billion for mental health over 10 years
- Investing \$11.2 billion in new subway and LTR builds in the GTA over the next 10 years.

**Education Sector**

- Confirms loss of teaching positions by re-announcing increase in class size average by one student per class in Grades 4-8 and increasing aggregate class size in secondary from 22:1 to 28:1, OECTA estimates this will result in a loss of 4,000 teaching positions over the next four years across our system;
- Although some details won't be made available until the Grants for Student Needs are announced by the end of April we are confident in projecting that spending for education will be declining because;
  - ⇒ Overall funding for education is increasing by 1.2% over last year, well below the rate of inflation which currently stands at 1.9%;
  - ⇒ Included in the total program spend is the cost of the new CARE tax credit which will cost \$390 million per year over the next 6 years; and
  - ⇒ Although student enrolment is projected to increase by 0.87% over the most recent projection, we won't know what the per pupil funding will be until the GSNs are announced.
- Confirms previously announced plan to scrap the Fair Hiring Regulation (Regulation 274);
- Aligns with previous government's investment in school renewal with a \$1.4 billion investment in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Phasing in a new math curriculum K-12 over the next four years with a focus on "math fundamentals" and away from Discovery math and offering student learning opportunities for math through summer learning programs and tutoring by 3rd parties;
- Confirms previous announcements that new teachers will be required to pass a math test to become certified to teach in Ontario, for teachers already in the system government will provide funding to take additional qualification courses in math;
- Introducing a Parent's Bill of Rights;
- Creating a Minister's Taskforce on School Boards;
- Modernizing EQAO;
- Accessing student learning opportunities for math through summer learning and tutoring by 3rd parties; and
- Providing \$3.7 million to fund a revised FMNI curriculum for Grades 9 to 12 and expanding the Indigenous Graduation Coach program.

**What Happens Now?**

The budget will be debated in the legislature. We can expect that the opposition parties will find reasons to vote against it. Some funding details won't be available until the GSN announcement but **the Finance Minister's statement in his budget speech touting an investment in education over \$1 billion over the next three years is misleading. Funding does not keep up with the rate of inflation and the overall amount includes a nearly \$1 billion financial commitment over three years (\$2 billion over six years) to the new CARE (child care tax credit) so education funding is in decline.**



The Know More Campaign has provided the following publications for members and the public at large. Know more about:

- [... the success of our publicly funded education system](#)
- [... the impact of changes to class size](#)
- [... misleading government messaging regarding education](#)

Please click on the links to read, and share widely!

**Local Staffing**

The staffing process for September 2019/20 is underway. The board opted to NOT immediately staff at 28:1, rather have initially adopted a phase in approach using a ratio of approximately 24:1. This still resulted in declarations of surplus and redundancy. In all there were 27 teachers declared surplus, and 11 declared redundant. [Chair postings](#) at each school and the first round of [job postings](#) should have been shared by principals. Transfer request paperwork can be found [here](#). Details regarding the staffing process are outlined in clause 16.02 of the [Collective Agreement](#).

**Local Secondary Unit Elections**

The Annual General Meeting of the Unit will be held on **Tuesday, May 7, 2019** at the Unit Office, at 4:30 p.m., to elect the Executive for the 2019-2020 school year.

The following positions are open for nominations:

- First Vice-President
- Recording Secretary
- Second Vice-President
- Councillor (maximum of five)
- \*Occasional Teacher Representative\*

**\* All teachers (permanent and occasional) may vote for all positions on the Executive. ONLY Occasional Teachers who attend the Unit General Meeting can vote for the Occasional Teacher Representative.\***

The composition and duties of the Unit executive and its officers is laid out in the **OECTA Handbook By-Laws - Section 2.105-2.120** and **Section A** of the **Simcoe Muskoka Secondary Unit By-Laws**.

**NEW:** Duties for Occasional Teacher Representative position: (not currently in Unit By-Laws)

- to chair the occasional teacher bargaining unit executive committee
- to assist the unit executive in its duties
- to advise the unit executive on matters pertaining to occasional teachers

The nomination form can be found [here](#) and must be completed and returned by Monday April 29th, 2019.

**OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Hike for Hospice**

Our local OECTA unit will be participating in Hike for Hospice on **Sunday May 5th at Sunnidale Park**. If you would like to participate or make a [donation](#), our team is **"OECTA-Unit Simcoe"**. Please join us, it's a lot of fun. Everyone is welcome! **Sunday May 5th (9:30 registration)** walk starts at 11:00 AM.

If you have any questions, please contact team captain [Rita Borgogelli](#).

**The President's Dinner: May 16th 2019**

The President's Dinner is an annual tradition in which the local unit honours our retirees, pays tribute to those who have achieved the milestone of 25 years service, and celebrates The Frank Moore Memorial Award recipient.

Please consider joining us on Thursday May 16th at the Barrie Golf and Country Club at 5p.m. Further details can be found [here](#). RSVP to your Staff Rep by April 25th.

**Coming Soon!**



Information regarding the annual  
**OECTA Simcoe Muskoka Golf Tournament!**  
 Save the Date: May 25th



**Staying Informed**

Consider subscribing to, downloading or bookmarking the following (hyperlinks embedded in graphics):



@OECTAProv



Apple



@catholic\_teachers



Android

