

Memo #21

Date: January 17, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **OTIP/OTF Teaching Awards; Toronto: 12th Annual Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; Changes to the Waiting Period for EI**

OTIP/OTF Teaching Awards

Want to Recognize a Teacher Who Does Great Work in the School? Why not nominate them for an OTIP/OTF Teaching award <http://teachingawards.ca/> ? These awards recognize teachers who inspire students, colleagues and parents in the publicly funded education in Ontario.

Anyone can nominate a teacher in one of three categories: elementary, secondary, or a beginning teacher in the first five years of teaching. Winning teachers are hosted at a fall awards ceremony in Toronto where they are presented with a personal award of \$1,000 and a Certificate of Recognition. Their schools are recognized as well with a \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Recognition.

Deadline for submitting nominations is March 31 of each year. For more information and to nominate a teacher, click here! <http://en.teachingawards.ca/users/login>

Toronto: 12th Annual Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Memorial Marches began in Vancouver, British Columbia, twenty-seven years ago. Each year, Canada continues to see increasing deaths of many vulnerable women leaving family, friends, loved ones and community members with an overwhelming sense of grief and loss. Over 3000 women are known to have gone missing or been murdered in Canada since the 1970s. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued this statement: "Hundreds of cases involving aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in the past two decades have neither been fully investigated nor attracted priority attention."

The February 14th Women's Memorial March is an opportunity to come together and grieve the loss of beloved sisters and remember the women who are still missing. Each year, communities gather to mourn and remember our sisters by listening to their family members, by taking over the streets and through spiritual ceremonies.

Attached is the flyer for the February 14th., Toronto 12th Annual Strawberry Ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at Police Headquarters, 40 College Street at Bay, Toronto.

Change to the Waiting Period for EI

Starting January 2017, the Employment Insurance (EI) waiting period will be shortened from two weeks to one week. This measure is part of the Government of Canada's plan to improve the EI program.

The waiting period acts like the deductible that must be paid for other types of insurance. Shortening the waiting period is expected to ease the financial strain for EI claimants and will put an estimated additional \$650 million in the pockets of Canadians annually beginning next year.

While claimants are still entitled to the same maximum number of weeks of EI benefits, the waiting period may have indirect implications for workers and employers who have top-up arrangements that supplement EI. Reducing the waiting period shifts forward the period during which EI benefits are payable. In some cases, employer payments that supplement EI maternity and parental benefits may be aligned to the two-week waiting period and the reduction of the waiting period may have impacts for workers or employers.

Further information can be found at:

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=1&nid=1171519&ctr.tp1D=1>

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**