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**Memo #48**

**Date: June 16, 2017**

**To: Executive/Members**

**Re: Benefits; Pay Periods; Toronto Zoo Update; OFL Post-Secondary Scholarship Opportunity; Young Authors Award Winner**

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### **Benefits**

#### **Providing Banking Information:**

Communications have begun via Canada Post and to each member board email address, to members who transitioned to the new provincial benefits plan on April 1 and did not provide banking information for direct billing where required.

**If members do not follow the instructions in the communication, in order to, provide their banking information by June 26, their benefits will be suspended.**

#### **Deferred Salary Leave:**

If you are planning a deferred salary leave please note that your benefits will no longer be paid. You will have to provide banking information to OTIP for the withdrawal of your premiums. If you had deducted benefit premiums the Board should be returning those funds to you. It is my understanding that the year of the deferred salary the Board continued to deduct the 10% portion, but now that our benefits are only paid for active employees and those on statutory leaves (pregnancy, parental and adoption leaves, LTD) all other leaves will have to cover their own cost for benefits.

#### **Pay Periods**

This year we moved to a 27-pay period to avoid the three-week gap from the final pay of 2016-17 and the first pay of the 2017-18 school year. The first pay for the 2017-18 school year will be Thursday, September 7, and we will return to 26 pay periods.

You can find the pay schedule in Employee Connect > Employee Services > Payroll > Permanent Pay. The pay schedule for the 2017-18 will be posted by September.

## **Toronto Zoo Update**

The Toronto Zoo and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1600 announced a tentative deal on Thursday, June 8, four weeks after employees walked off the job.

## **OFL Post-Secondary Scholarship Opportunity**

The OFL has partnered with American Income Life (AIL) Canada, and is calling for applications for the annual OFL/American Income Life Post-Secondary Scholarships.

Two OFL members, or their children, will be selected from a pool of applicants to each receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 to support them as they enter their first year of full-time post-secondary study in September 2017. The scholarship will be awarded in honour of distinguished trade union activists who have made a significant contribution to the life and growth of the labour movement in Ontario.

Eligible candidates must:

- Be a current member, or the child of a member, of a local union affiliated to the OFL;
- Be enrolled for September 2017 to enter their first year of full-time study (leading to a diploma or certificate) at a public Ontario community college or the first year of an undergraduate program (leading to a degree) at a public Ontario university;
- Not have any prior post-secondary studies; and
- Be currently enrolled or not more than two years out of secondary school.

**Deadline is July 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Click below or cut and paste into your web browser:

<http://ofl.ca/index.php/apply-2017-oflail-labour-post-secondary-scholarships-today/>

## **Young Authors Award Winner**

Simcoe Muskoka Elementary has done it again! Congratulations to Caralina Knights, student at St. Mary's Collingwood, in Tina Money Penny's grade 5/6 class. Caralina won in the Poem category. She wrote a beautiful poem titled: *Sidewalk Chalk and High Hopes*. Please look for her poem when your school receives its copy of the provincial awards winner book.

This is a great time to remind all teachers that this is a fantastic opportunity for teachers and students to take a piece of work they have worked on for the early part of the school year. Young Author submissions are due in February, and there are multiple categories: Short Story, Poem and Non-fiction story.

Please look out for Young Author information in the Fall of 2017.

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