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Memo #43

Date: May 16, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **OECTA Workplace Violence Survey; Unit Levy; Earned Leave Plan; TeachOntario; Canada 150 – Microsoft Resources**

OECTA Workplace Violence Survey

Over the past few years, violence against teachers in classrooms has become a more frequent issue. Although OECTA has addressed this subject with government, it's important that we also collect hard data in order to work towards appropriate solutions.

With this in mind, OECTA is launching its *Violence Against Teachers in the Workplace* survey. The survey will help us to better understand the scope and scale of the violence taking place in your workplace, the impact this is having on learning, as well as the effectiveness of existing processes for reporting incidents and managing students.

The results will be used to inform our lobby strategies and collective bargaining. Members are encouraged to participate to ensure your voices are heard.

If you haven't received the survey to your personal email, then simply click on the link below. If your email does not support hotlinks, cut and paste the link into your browser:

<https://www.askingcanadians.com/wix/p1857793969.aspx?r=25454&l=9&s=NXMFAYYA&tod=0&dow=0&rem=1&ic=0&kcode=1>

The link will remain **active until May 28, 2017**.

Unit Levy

At our last Unit General Meeting on May 11, 2017, the topic of increasing our unit levy was discussed. It was debated and agreed upon that our current unit levy of \$3.00/pay would be increased to \$6.00/pay.

Earned Leave Plan

A recent arbitration decision through the Central Dispute Resolution process may have an effect for those on approved leaves. Specifically, the discussions revolved around entitlement to top-up days for the sick leave short-term disability plan.

Where a teacher is on any approved Board leave for a full-school year, the teacher is not entitled to the benefits of the Earned Leave Plan. However, teachers who return from an approved leave partway – minimum of 97 school days - through a school year shall have the target they are required to meet in order to access the Earned Leave Plan prorated

Teachers on a statutory pregnancy/parental leave for a full school year shall be allocated a total of 11 days that may be utilized for top-up upon their return to work the following year. Teachers extending their pregnancy/parental leave shall be entitled to carry forward the 11 top-up days.

Teachers on any other approved leave shall have their top-up allocation calculated as follows when they return to work: 11 days, less the number of sick days used in the most recent year actively worked.

TeachOntario

TeachOntario offers a professional learning series, where exemplary educators share pedagogical knowledge and best practices in their free webinar series.

The lineup for May includes:

- TLLP Roundtable (May 18 at 7:30 p.m.)
- Dive into Inquiry (with Trevor MacKenzie) (May 23 at 3:30 p.m.)

Learn more and register **HERE**.

Canada 150 – Microsoft Resources for Teachers

To celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation, Microsoft Canada has launched the “Explore. Teach. Build.”

The first way is through **Skype Virtual Field Trips**

These virtual field trips will take learning outside the classroom walls, as students embark on a digital journey to visit Canada’s historical sites, and interact with heritage site tour guides in real-time.

The second way is through Minecraft: Education Edition. Teachers and students are invited to re-create Canada’s historical sites using Minecraft and submit their recreations using one of two free tools: **Office Mix** or **Sway**. Your creations will be entered to win one of four HP classroom prize packs!

This program builds on Microsoft’s ongoing commitment to making education immersive, inclusive and inspirational. The program is FREE for educators across the country!

Check out **Explore. Teach. Build.**

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.