

# AM ETFO INFO

February 8, 2021 | Volume 7 | Issue 6

## Staffing Deadlines

There are a number of important dates that are upcoming. Members need to submit letters to the board by the following deadlines:

Feb. 15:

Voluntary transfer requests

March 1:

Notice to remain on Recall List

DSL application,

Leave of Absence request for the entire year,

Extension of Leave of Absence for entire year

## Inside This Issue

- EAP - page 2
- Did You Know? - page 2
- Wellness - page 2
- Thinking of Retiring - page 3
- Maternity/Parental Leaves - page 3



## Return to In person Learning

Today, you and your students have returned to in person learning after what has been 5 challenging weeks of emergency online learning.

During this transition to Model C, members once again went above and beyond. You provided your students with the same rich learning experiences that you deliver in bricks and mortar schools and, in most cases, with few resources.

With the return to in person teaching, members are continuing to do their best as the dedicated professionals they are. This is all they can do and all that can be asked of them. This is enough.



## Contact your Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Immediate, confidential  
help for any concern is  
just a phone call away,

Toll-free, 24 hours a day,  
seven days a week:  
1.800.387.4765 or

visit [http://  
www.shepell.com](http://www.shepell.com)

### Services Offered:

Professional counselling

Financial support

Legal support

Nutrition support

Family support

Health coaching

Naturopathic services

Fitness support

## Did You Know?

The language that is written in your local collective agreement is unique to your local. Each local negotiates the terms of their own local agreement which results in some similarities, but also some individualized clauses. For example, in **Avon Maitland**, we have "12.07 - Professional Activity Time". This clause is unique to our local and has a multiple of uses:

- it can be used to get caught up on assessment
- it can be used to attend an in-person conference (good old days)
- it can be used to attend a virtual conference (good new days?)
- it can be used to shadow a colleague
- it can be used to co-plan with a colleague
- it can be used to pursue personal professional development
- it can also be used to work on report cards

If you want to know what rights you are entitled to, it is important to know the language of your own local collective agreement.

## Wellness

There are both internal and external factors impacting a person's wellness. Despite our best efforts, stress and changes that are out of our control can get the better of us and put any of us at risk for a mental health illness. AMETFO members have three helpful tools available through our OTIP LTD Plan.

**Feeling Better Now** is an on-line tool to help yourself build mental health skills, to self-assess, and to help others who may be struggling. Go to [www.feelingbetternow.com/otip](http://www.feelingbetternow.com/otip)

**CAREpath** is a cancer assistance program that helps patients and their families with their journey through cancer treatment. Call CAREpath at 1-800-290-5106 or visit [www.otip.com/carepath](http://www.otip.com/carepath)

**PosAction Plus** provides 12 hours of totally free professional confidential counselling. Call 1-800-668-0193. Our OTIP LTD contract number is 50188 and our division number is 108

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** is immediate, confidential help for any concern, toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1.800.387.4765 or visit [www.shepell.com](http://www.shepell.com)

**ETFO Professional Relations Services** has developed a new PRS Matters Bulletin (Bulletin #111) called *Mental Health and Wellness Tips for Members During the Pandemic*.

<https://www.etfo.ca/SupportingMembers/Employees/PDF%20Versions/2Mental%20Health%20and%20Wellness%20Tips%20for%20Members%20During%20the%20Pandemic.pdf>



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The Avon Maitland Teachers' Local is the union local in the Huron Perth area for the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. The Avon Maitland Teachers' Local represents all of the 650 full and part time elementary teachers employed by the Avon Maitland District School Board.

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Kent Cleland

**Vice President**

Laura Inglis-Eickmeier

**Collective Agreement Officer**

Darrell Uhler

**Treasurer**

Drew Macauley

## Thinking of Retiring

You can apply for your pension up to 4 months in advance but you may send all your required documents ahead of that:

- a photocopy of your birth certificate, Canadian passport or Ontario driver's license
- a photocopy of your spouse's birth certificate, Canadian passport or Ontario driver's license
- a photocopy of your marriage certificate

You should check your service record for absences in the last 5 years which you may qualify to buy back.

## Maternity/Parental Leaves

Our members that are currently on a leave and wanting to take a non-statutory leave for the teaching year of 2021/2022, need to have their letter of request by March 1st. This only applies to members whose maternity/parental leave ends prior to August 31, 2021. Please contact Darrell Uhler (cao.ametfo@gmail.com) for further information or a letter if needed.

## Dates to Remember

February 9 - Executive Meeting

February 15 - Family Day

March 9 - Executive Meeting

March 15 - 19 - March Break

April 2 - Good Friday

April 5 - Easter Monday

April 6 - Executive Meeting

May 24 - Victoria Day.

June 11 - PA Day for Assessment and Reporting

June 15 - Executive Meeting.

June 28 - Last day for students

June 29 - PA Day