

AM ETFO INFO

October 17, 2022 | Volume 9 | Issue 2

Benefits Update

If you have been contacted by OTIP regarding changes to your benefits this school year, please make careful note of the timelines in your letter. Failure to complete your enrolment within the timeframe can lead to problems accessing benefits in the future.

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Aspen

“Do they just not care about our mental health?”

Unfortunately, this has become an all too common question here at the Local office. And most often, it relates to the implementation of Aspen.

When the board told us that they were switching to Aspen we shared our concerns, based on the experience of other Locals across Ontario. When they were discussing implementation, we made suggestions, which included sessions similar to PLCs, and having trainers rotate through schools so members could sign up on their preps. None of our suggestions were implemented. Additionally, the training that was provided occurred at the end of the school year, without access to the online program, and when Members were at their most exhausted.

We continue to share with the board the impact Aspen's roll out is having on members across the district.

Teacher Performance Appraisal

Members who are scheduled to have a Teacher Performance Appraisal were to be notified by September 30. Experienced teachers are required to have an appraisal every five years, and new teachers must be appraised twice in the first 12 months of teaching. This year the Board is using an electronic summative report. Principals are asked to complete a checkbox after the appraisal and in doing so, it produces an electronic signature and time stamp. A teacher is given 48 hours to review and sign the report and attach written comments to the report. Teachers will be asked to electronically check off that they are in receipt of the report - again indicating a signature. Any teacher signature on a TPA means that they are in receipt of the report and does not necessarily indicate they are in agreement with it. The teacher will be provided with a paper copy of the report.

Progress Reports & Interviews

The Board has set a date of **October 24, 2022** for progress reports to be submitted to the office with the reports being sent home on **November 7, 2022**. Interviews will be held the evening of **November 17, 2022** and the morning of **November 18, 2022**.



Municipal Elections

The next municipal election will be held **Monday, October 24, 2022**.

Anyone can vote in a municipal election who, on the day of the election, is:

- 18 years of age or older
- a Canadian citizen; and
- either a resident of the municipality or a property owner or tenant or the spouse or same sex partner of an owner or tenant in the municipality during a specified time just before the election.

Your name must be on the voters' list in order for you to cast a ballot.

To get more information about the candidates running in your riding, please contact your local municipal office.



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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.

President

Laura Inglis-Eickmeier

Vice President

Darrell Uhler

**Collective Agreement
Officer**

Drew Macaulay

Treasurer

Lindsay O'Reilly

Did you know... The ETFO Humanity Fund is supported by payroll deductions (\$20 a year in Avon Maitland), by members in locals, donations by members, staff, locals and by an annual contribution by ETFO provincially. The ETFO Humanity Fund was created in 2002 to provide members with a way to work together to support children and their teachers here and abroad. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is the signature charity supported by the fund. Among other organizations the fund supports are ArtHeart, Canadian Samaritans for Africa, Firefighters Without Borders and Young People's Theatre.

Retirement Information

During your last year of work:

1. Get a pension estimate update
2. Review survivor benefits
3. Call the ETFO office regarding LTD
4. Collect required documents:
 - Birth certificate
 - Marriage or statutory declaration of common law relationship certificate (if applicable)
 - Spouse's birth certificate (if applicable)
 - Separation or divorce certificate (if applicable)

Dates to Remember

October 24 - Reports Due to Office, PD Day

November 7 - Reports Go Home

November 8 - Executive Meeting

November 17 & 18 - Progress Report Interviews

November 22 - Retirement Workshop (Mitchell)

November 23 - TPA Workshop (Zoom)