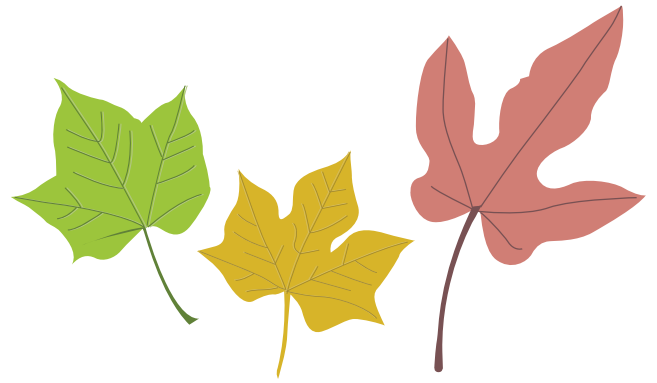




Association of Professional Student Services Personnel

Dufferin-Peel Catholic Chapter Executive Update Report

Fall 2017




Welcome Back

We hope that all APSSP members had time for rest and relaxation this past summer. Hopefully by this point in time you are settled in your placement and doing what we do best: supporting some of the most vulnerable students in our schools and increasing their opportunity to be successful.

For those who have joined Dufferin Peel for the first time, we welcome you to our schools and to our Union: The Association of Professional Student Services Personnel (APSSP). APSSP has a history in this province that's over 40 years old, advocating for the needs of our members and speaking up for the needs of the students who need our services to have a fair chance to succeed in our schools. Make sure you take the time to read all correspondence from your Union and consider attending special and annual general meetings at both the provincial and Local level.

Your Dufferin-Peel Local Executive

 President: Dan Milne

 Treasurer: Betty Kennedy

 VP Negotiations: Nadia Kerr

 Grievance/Member Issues: Janis Stewardson

 Public Relations: Kellie Donaher

 Secretary: Joanne Dean

Office Space

A few questions have arisen from members in terms of adequate workspace in their schools. While most discussions with our administrators resolve space issues, there is also Collective Agreement language that speaks to the issue. We have language (Article 21) that the Board must acknowledge our obligations to honour our Codes of Ethics (Psychology/Social Work and Speech-Language Pathology). In addition, we have language (Letter of Understanding 21) directing principals to make efforts to provide reasonable work space for our members.

Outside Agency Work in Schools

We are all aware that a number of community agencies provide valuable support to our students and their families. Any community agency work that is occurring in our schools must be supported by an approved community agency protocol. These protocols have been developed in accordance with PPM 149. Should you have any questions related to agency work occurring in your school, please contact your Chief of Service to inquire about the status of a service agreement. No one from outside the APSSP bargaining unit (outside our school) should be doing your work. Agency support is meant to enhance and not replace work that an APSSP member should be conducting. Report any additional concerns to a member of our Executive.

Benefits

As you are aware, our Union has bargained provincially through our alliance in EWAO-ATEO. At this point in time, our benefit design has been approved by EWAO-ATEO and our trustees. Stay tuned for an invitation to attend an information session related to the new plan. It is hoped that we will transition to our new benefits early in the new year. Until that time, benefits will continue to be maintained and operated as per the status quo.

Member Issues

Your Local Executive continues to respond to your concerns and has been actively supporting a number of members with workplace issues and challenges. Most recently, a number of members have requested and been provided with support upon returning to the workplace following medical leaves. We encourage you to take advantage of the invitation that will be provided by the Board to have Union representation at any return-to-work meeting.

Provincial Education Weekend

Once again, this year the provincial association is inviting all Local Executive members to any education weekend. This is an opportunity for each member of the Executive to meet with their provincial counterpart and to understand their role and the provincial resources that are available to support the Local Executive and our membership in general. This year, the education weekend will be held on October 21 and 22 in Cambridge, Ontario.

