

APSSP

Association of Professional Student Services Personnel

Simcoe Chapter Executive Update Report Winter 2022



Message from the President

Hello APSSP Members!

I am writing this at the end of week one of working from home and Oh My Goodness!! I guess this is our fourth, week one of working from home. For me it doesn't seem to get easier. I do have a bit of muscle memory though, and I am drawing on the list of things that worked well in the last shut downs for me. I am intentionally trying to focus on the positives;

1. I don't have to wear a mask all day.
2. Being at home is safer than being around a lot of other people.
3. I don't have to wear a mask all day.

Ok, so it isn't a long list- but focusing on the positives is very helpful. :)

To be more serious though, I find a lot of hope in all of the incredible work you all do every day. Your dedication to your work and to your self-care during these very difficult circumstances is so inspiring. I am so grateful that my union work has me advocating for members like you. :)

Your executive has been very busy continuing to advocate for your voice. The board will be introducing a database (IEP Online) that most of us are going to be using for our notes and student files. We have consistently been advocating for front line staff to be a part of the development of the database and we are happy to have heard that has happened.

We are also very pleased to have settled the grievance regarding quarantine language. It takes some of the stress away to know that failing the screening tool will mean you are on a quarantine leave.

As always, we are here for all of you if you have any questions or concerns. Please stay safe and take good care of yourself and your loved ones.

In solidarity,
Cathy

Welcome!

If you have ideas for content or would like to share exciting news with the chapter (e.g., engagement, wedding, birth, team news), please email Virginia Cooper, VP Public Relations at apsspsimcoepr@gmail.com. All previous editions of the newsletter can be viewed in the member's section of the APSSP website <https://apssp.org/member-login/>

Your Simcoe Chapter Executive

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Executive Spotlight: Virginia Cooper - VP Public Relations and Joint Health and Safety Committee Representative

Hello, I wanted to take a few minutes to tell you a little about myself since many of you may not know me. My family moved from Toronto to Orillia when I was 9 years old and I attended Hillcrest and ODCVI (both of which have now been torn down). I completed both my undergraduate (Bachelor of Health Science) and Masters of Clinical Science (Speech-Language Pathology) degrees at Western. I returned to Simcoe County and worked for The Speech Clinic from 2007 to 2019 (with a brief part time stint at Southlake from 2010-2013). I joined the SCDSB SLP team in 2019. I live in Barrie with my husband, 10 year old daughter, and 6 month old Portuguese Water Dog. I have learned that puppies are a lot of work (especially now as I work from home and he's used to being alone all day)! As we are now into the winter months, my family is enveloped in the world of downhill skiing and downhill ski racing. It is so exciting to be able to ski this winter as everything was shut down last year.



As the Joint Health and Safety Representative for APSSP, I meet once a month with other worker representatives from the SCDSB unions as well as SCDSB admin. I am here to answer any questions you have with regards to health and safety concerns and can take your concerns to the monthly meetings. At this point, many concerns that are reported by APSSP, are also shared by the other unions.

If you have any concerns related to health and safety in your job or have an idea for newsletter content (my responsibility as the VP PR), please reach out to me at: apsspsimcoepr@gmail.com

Chapter News



Social Worker Jessica Martin welcomed Dean Martin Lawrence Farren in October 2021. He has such an adorable and happy face!! Congratulations Jessica and family. We hope you are enjoying this special time together!

Black History Month

For the month of February, Canadians reflect on the contributions and legacies of Black Canadians, both past and present. Your local APSSP executive would like to take the time to recognize our Black members, who continually shape our education system to be more equitable, compassionate, and accountable. Our work and learning (and unlearning) is ongoing, and we are committed to celebrating the accomplishments of Black people this February, and continuing our celebrations year round!

In September 2021, APSSP provincial executive hosted an education weekend, titled "Working Towards and Anti-Racist APSSP". The event included guest Speaker, Patricia Harewood, a labour lawyer and advocate for human rights. Executive, both at the provincial and local levels, are working to acknowledge and address systemic anti-black racism within our education system. These conversations have been challenging at times, but crucial to address anti-Black racism and ensure all members of the APSSP executive are effective allies and advocates. We will continue to reach out to members for ideas on how you feel we can improve our practices, including our collective agreement.

Quiz

For the first time ever, we are going to have a contest. The first three people to correctly answer all 5 questions will win a prize. Please email your responses to Virginia at: apsspsimcoepr@gmail.com

1. When is the last day of work for 10 month 10 day employees during the 2021-2022 school year?
2. When does the current collective agreement expire?
3. Where can you find the collective agreement? For a bonus answer, where is a second location to find the collective agreement?
4. For 10 month employees (permanent), when is vacation pay paid out?
5. What does article 15.3 say?



Recipes

Chili (cause it's cold outside)

(Source: Christine Seeburger)

Ingredients:

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| 1 tablespoon olive oil | 1 ½ teaspoon salt |
| 1 medium yellow onion -diced | ½ teaspoon ground black pepper |
| 1 pound 90% lean ground beef (or turkey) | ¼ ground cayenne pepper (optional) |
| 2 1/2 tablespoons chili powder | 1 ½ cup beef broth |
| 2 tablespoons ground cumin | 1 (15 oz) can petite diced tomatoes |
| 2 tablespoons granulated sugar | 1 (16 oz) can red kidney beans (drained) |
| 2 tablespoons tomato paste | 1 (8 oz) can tomato sauce |
| 1 tablespoon garlic powder | |

Instructions:

- Add the olive oil to a large soup pot and place it over medium-high heat for two minutes. Add the onion. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add the ground beef to the pot. Break it apart with a wooden spoon. Cook for 6-7 minutes, until the beef is browned, stirring occasionally.
- Add the chili powder, cumin, sugar, tomato paste, garlic powder, salt, pepper, and optional cayenne. Stir until well combined. * spice ratio may vary to taste*
- Add the broth, diced tomatoes (with their juice), drained beans, and tomato sauce. Stir well.
- Bring the liquid to a low boil. Then, reduce the heat (low to medium-low) to gently simmer the chili, uncovered, for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Remove the pot from the heat. Let the chili rest for 5-10 minutes before serving.



Cranberry Sparkler

(source: https://cocktails.lovetoknow.com/Alcohol_Free_Cocktails)

A simple yet refreshing drink, it pairs well with summer and sunshine but goes just as well with a fire and blankets.

Ingredients:

- 6 ounces cranberry juice
- 1 ounce freshly squeezed lime juice
- Club soda to top off
- Ice
- Orange wheel for garnish

Instructions:

1. In a highball glass filled with ice, add cranberry juice and lime juice.
2. Top off with club soda.
3. Garnish with orange wheel

