

**Subject:** OSTU News

**From:** OSTU 2nd Vice President <ostu2vp@mail.mailchimpapp.com>

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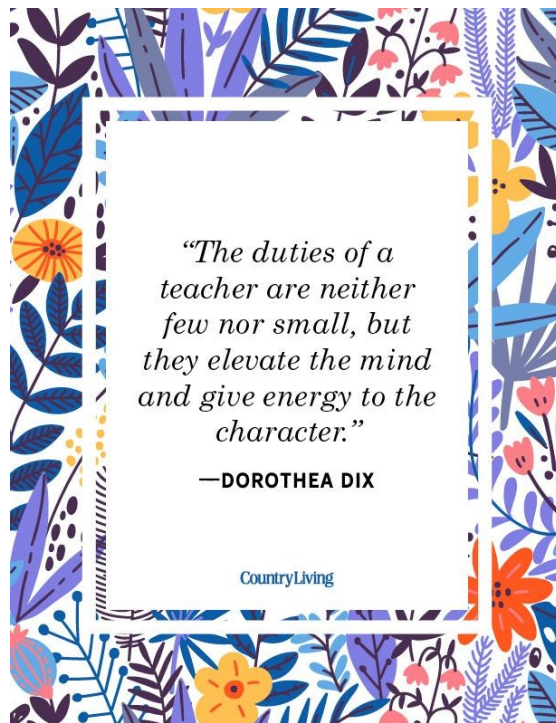
**To:** <keith@ostu.ca>

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# OSTU News

#12 – March 2024





## **Thinking of Retiring? Four Months Before Retirement...**

**Contact the Teachers’ Pension Plan (TPP) for a Retirement Application Package. Send the completed application form to the TPP no later than the *end of the month* in which the pension is to start (preferably at least two months earlier).**

## **“Understanding your Benefits and Pension Income in Retirement” CPP, OAS and Group Benefits: An Essential Workshop from BCRTA**

The important decisions that will determine your retirement lifestyle should not be made at the last minute as you fill out your forms. This seminar will prepare you to confidently make choices that are right for you.

The agenda includes: Teachers’ Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and voluntary group benefits. As you will no longer have access to your health benefits from the employer, we include information about choosing your group benefits (dental, extended

health and travel), and show some of the differences between the plans to equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.

All teachers age 50+ should plan to attend one of BCRTA's Pre-Retirement online (Zoom) workshops. The workshops are free. You get great planning materials along with answers to questions you have about your retirement. Please pre-register at <https://bcrt.ca/workshop>

February 29, 2024 7 p.m.

April 3, 2024 7 p.m.

May 9, 2024 7 p.m.

May 29, 2024 7 p.m.

All teachers are welcome! Sign up takes two minutes and will give you access to all the workshop materials and future updates

## Member Workshops

*Stay tuned for information regarding two upcoming member workshops: Pizza & Paystubs and Growing Your Family!*

## BCTF Assistance Society

### ***Helping teachers with sudden financial hardships***

Extreme weather events, diseases, fires, accidents, housing emergencies, and family breakups can challenge even those with the best plans in place. Current and retired BCTF members who have exhausted all other avenues of financial assistance can apply for emergency aid from the BCTF Assistance Society.

The mandate does not permit the BCTF to assist teachers in paying down their debts, so help is limited to new situations.

For more information on the BCTF Assistance Society, please contact the Assistance Society Secretary at 604-871-1921, or email [benefits@bctf.ca](mailto:benefits@bctf.ca).

## Professional Development

*Our next and final Pro-D day is Monday, April 22nd. Stay tuned for session offerings early next month!*

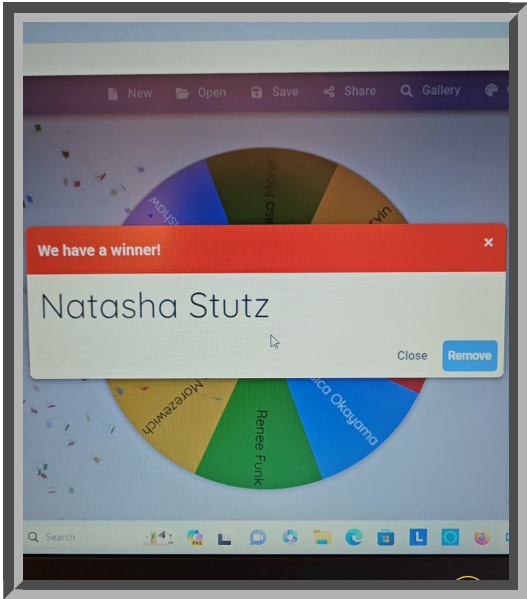
## Know Your Contract

### ***ARTICLE G.30 Educational Leave With Pay***

1. Leave of absence with pay may be granted for the purpose of further educational studies or other professional development (pursuant to the School Act) on the following bases:
  - a. work to be undertaken should be at the post-graduate level;
  - b. courses must be of practical value to the School District;
  - c. three (3) years prior satisfactory service within the School District shall be required;
  - d. documentary support of the applicant's intentions must be provided to the Superintendent of Schools upon application for leave under this section;
  - e. such requests will be considered on an individual merit basis.
2. Educational conferences and/or Courses Leave of absence with pay may be granted for attendance at educational conferences and/or courses. All requests for such leave must be forwarded to the Superintendent.

**Click here for the Collective Agreement**

**Contest!**  
***Congratulations to Natasha Stutz, the winner of the last gift card!***



**Good luck to our OSTU representatives at the BCTF AGM!**  
***Have a safe, healthy, and well-deserved Spring Break!***



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