

Subject: OSTU News
From: OSTU 2nd Vice President <ostu2vp@outlook.com>
Date: 10/16/2023, 9:59 AM
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OSTU News

#3 – October 2023





Meet the OSTU crew! This is Lauren Vallis. Lauren is the OSTU 2nd Vice President for the second year. She works at the office one afternoon per week on a rotating schedule; her role is the Political Action Contact (PAC), and also includes the bi-weekly newsletter, overseeing social media, and assisting members with Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP) applications. Lauren has also been school staff rep, Member at Large (MaL) and Alternate Local Representative (LR).

Pro-D News

Enjoy your first Pro-D day this Friday, October 20th!

Interested in presenting on a Pro-D Day? You can apply for an honorarium by filling out the form located on the OSTU website under the Pro-D tab. Email Jessica for more information.

E-mail Jessica

TTOC News

Reminder: this month's TTOC meeting will be held October 25th at 4pm at the OSTU office!

Mentorship

The mentorship program is up and running for the 2023-2024 school year; however, if you are a teacher in your first 3 years since certification, or are in a significantly new role this year, you can still reach out to be paired with a mentor. Please reach out to ostumentorship@outlook.com for more information. Our next mentorship meeting is *October 18th* for everyone in the program.

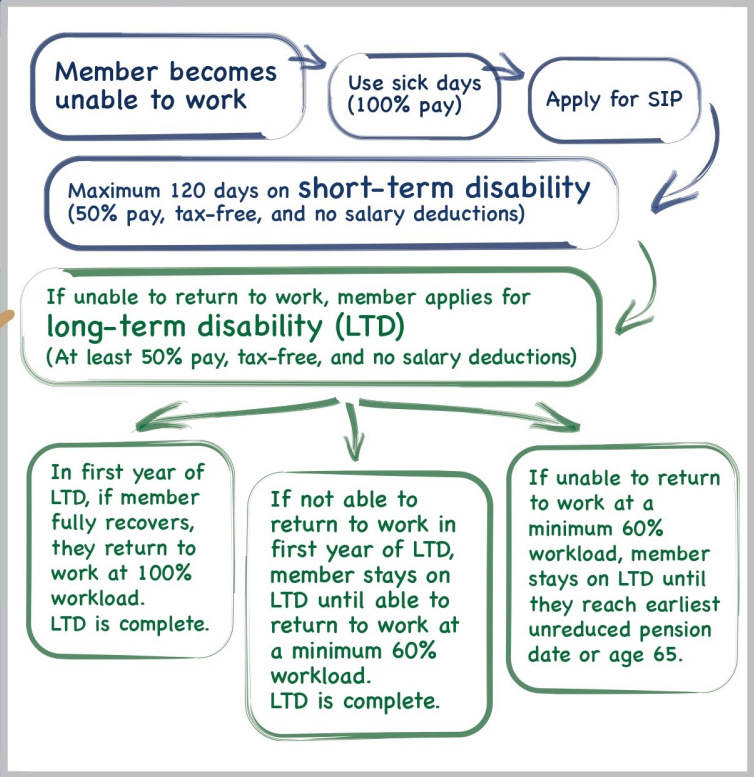
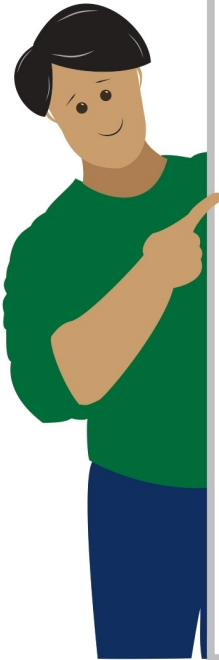
The Foundation Skills Assessment

The FSA is a province-wide standardized test administered to all Grade 4 and 7 students across BC. This year, the FSA takes place **October 2 to November 10, 2023**. It is not a required part of the BC Curriculum, nor does it lead to increased supports for children. Despite years of controversy, the government has continued to enable the Fraser Institute and others who use the student data to rank schools. This test is divisive and unhelpful.

Know Your Contract

What if you get sick?

BCTF MEMBERS with a contract participate in the Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP) with contributions of 1.87% from each paycheque. This plan provides both short- and long-term benefits to members who, because of illness or injury, are disabled from working and have exhausted all of their sick leave. If the illness or injury is work-related, a Workers Compensation Board (WCB) claim must be initiated.



There are more details than can be provided in this flowchart. Please contact your local union office or the BCTF with questions specific to your situation.

If you are close to your earliest unreduced pension date and have enough sick leave accumulated in your sick bank to provide you with an income until six months prior to your retirement, you may want to investigate withdrawing from the long-term section of the plan. This will save you 1.36% in SIP contributions from your paycheque. Contact your local union office for guidance:

bctf.ca/LocalWebsites



Originally published in the March 2020 edition of the BC Teachers' Federation's Teacher magazine.

You contribute a percentage of your pay cheque every month to the SIP; what does "SIP" stand for and when

would you need to access it? The 7th person to answer both parts of the question will receive a gift card! - Lauren



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