



APRIL

NEWSLETTER 2020

GET THE LATEST UPDATES ABOUT COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK, ALL UPCOMING MEETINGS, ELECTIONS AND EVENTS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND YOUR CUPE 218 EMAIL FOR THE MOST RECENT UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUR JOB.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. Easter is normally a time for families to celebrate together, and this year is especially difficult for many.

I have been in constant communication with management from both school boards as well as the OSBCU, CUPE Ontario and National, and information has been posted to the cupe218.ca website as we receive it. Please continue to check the website for more information.

The chairpeople and their committees have been working remotely with us on bargaining proposals along with the national representative. We are prepared for local bargaining when the employers are ready to get back to the table.

Please continue to contact the Disability Management Team as usual. The boards are still communicating with members regarding their disability issues; the local team can assist you and be included in conference calls with management.

Please continue to stay safe in these trying times, and keep in contact with family, friends and coworkers if possible. It can be lonely and isolating at home, particularly during this unsettling time. If you feel it is affecting your mental health, you can seek support from:

Catholic Board – FSEAP: 1-888-409-4499

Public Board – Morneau Shepell: 1-844-880-9142

In Solidarity,



Rod King

President

CUPE Local 218

Location: 2080 Wentworth Street, Whitby, ON L1N 8W9

Phone: 905-571-7879 Toll free 1-877-571-0218

Fax: 905-571-4102

E-mail: office@cupe218.ca

Website: www.cupe218.ca

VICE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

April 2020

COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed life as we know it. Working from home, social distancing, cleaning, wiping, hand-washing, missing our peers, friends and family... That's the new reality. We also don't know how long this will last.

What we need to do

Stay in touch; check your CUPE email and your work email. We've fielded a few frantic calls from the Employer when they hadn't been able to reach out to all members on their teams. If you know of someone who doesn't have access the internet, then let them know they need to phone their supervisor and/or principal. Not everyone has a phone, let alone a smart phone or high-speed internet/Wi-Fi.

Please keep the union informed of any changes to your personal information (IE. phone number, address, email, etc.). A new phone still may mean a new phone number.

Take care of yourself

Should the situation caused by the virus trigger emotions, mood swings, financial issues or other concerns, don't forget that both employers have Emergency Assistance Programs that give us access to advice and counselling for the many issues that may occur in our personal lives.

Durham Catholic District School Board Employees

FSEAP 1-613-549-5561

1-888-409-4499 Toll Free

myfseap.ca

Durham Public School Board Employees

Morneau Shepell 1-844-880-9142

Caring and professional assistance for personal, family and work-related concerns. Services are free and confidential.

Say thank you!

If you have contact with someone who is working in a hospital, clinic, grocery store, public utility company or other essential job sector, please thank them on everyone's behalf for all they are doing for us. Our frontline workers really are on the frontline.

Yours in solidarity,

Marion Moore

Vice President and Disability Rep.

CUPE Local 218

mmoore@cupe218.ca

DISABILITY MANAGEMENT

April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this difficult time. For those that do not know me, my name is Carrie Boisvert, and I am the Disability Management Coordinator. As you are all aware, we are facing a time that is new to both the school boards and the unions. During this time, we ask that you frequently check your emails from both the Board and CUPE to keep up to date with information and updates, as things are changing rapidly.

It is also very important to keep the union's Disability Management Team informed about any changes in your medical or any correspondence with yourself and the Board. Currently, our team is working collectively with the Board to ensure that anyone off work and requiring use of long-term disability is being emailed/mailed the necessary paperwork. We understand that doctors' offices are adapting to what's going on in the world, and where possible, we ask that you drop the medical portion of the package to your doctor and ask them to contact you when it is ready to be picked up. This will help with the process, as we don't want to see anyone go without money. If you need any information or have questions when filling out the form, please contact us and we can assist you over the phone. With the Board and the Union working collaboratively, we hope that it will be a smooth transition for our members.

In terms of anyone being off for or having received medical clearance to come back to work – whether on full duties or modified duties – we ask you to forward that to both the Board and the Union. We are working with the Board to have those members back on regular pay, according to the medical doctor's recommendations.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. During this time, it may be easier to reach the committee members by email.

Catholic Board/ Public Board

Marion Moore - mmoore@cupe218.ca

Public Board

Carrie Boisvert - carrie.boisvert@cupe218.ca

Lori Richards - lrichards@cupe218.ca

Dennis Gibbs - dgibbs@cupe218.ca

Yours in solidarity,

Carrie Boisvert

Disability Management Coordinator

905-571-7879

FAX 905-571-4102

LINC / ESL - CATHOLIC BOARD

April 2020

At this most unusual time, those fortunate enough have had to proceed with business as usual as best they can; this is the same case with ratifying our agreement. Fortunately, this process is not as traumatic as it could have been thanks to everyone involved, and it is still moving along. A big thank you for all their help.

All those who are suffering are in our prayers at this time, as well as the healthcare workers who are on the frontlines keeping us safe. The silver lining is that this too shall pass. This is a perfect time to connect more with family and friends, to think of others, and to help those in need. More than ever, it is apparent we are all in this together.

We are home with time to reflect on and take care of what is important. Hopefully, we will be able to ratify our agreement in the not-too-distant future. In the meantime, take care, stay home, be safe, and get well soon to all those who are battling illness.



Thank you,

Bargaining Team

Tracy Gill - tracy.gill@cupe218.ca

Katherine Sanchez - katherine.sanchez@cupe218.ca

Sajida Aaron - sajida.aaron@cupe218.ca

CONTINUING EDUCATION - PUBLIC BOARD

April 2020

As we face the recent challenges in the world of education, I am thankful to the CUPE Local 218 team for their leadership. This is a time to be particularly grateful for the benefits of union membership. Much work has been done behind the scenes, and you can rest assured that the union worked hard both locally and provincially to secure our interests. **It is only because we are union members protected by a collective agreement that we continue to be employed.**

The following words are taken from the Members' Bulletin Update of April 1, which explains the second phase of Ontario's Learn at Home program:

“CUPE members in permanent or long-term occasional positions will keep being paid. Benefits will be paid through the EWBT. Pension contributions will continue as long as members receive their salaries.”

At the time of writing (April 4th), the latest directions from the Board for our unit are set out in an email sent on April 3rd. Please be sure to read this email carefully, as it answers a number of your questions about current work expectations while we try to support our students.

With things changing so quickly, it is now more important than ever to check the following sources of information daily:

- your CUPE email
- the Board email
- the members' portal on the CUPE 218 website

To access the latest information, follow these steps once you are on the members' portal of the website “cupe218.ca.”: (1) Click on the CUPE 218 logo; (2) Click on the top banner item called “School Closures;” (3) Below the message from Rod King, you will see various updates.

Please contact Sue Wilkinson at the CUPE 218 Office (swilkinson@cupe218.ca) if you have not been receiving any recent emails from the CUPE Office or are unable to sign in to the members' portal of the CUPE 218 website.

CONTINUING EDUCATION - PUBLIC BOARD

(Cont'd)

We also encourage you to access our Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP), provided by the Board through Morneau Shepell. Assistance can be found through phone, web or app as follows:

- Website: www.workhealthlife.com or regularly check the Morneau Shepell website
- Phone the EFAP line: 1-844-880-9142
- App: Download MY EAP at your device app store.
You may also want to know about the following sources of up-to-date Covid-19 information: ontario.ca/coronavirus
- Durham Health Connection Line: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
- Telehealth Ontario: 1-8666-797-0000

We wish you the very best and hope you and your loved ones stay well.

On behalf of your Con Ed Team:

Jane Batterink

Bargaining Chair, Public Board

Continuing Education

Your Bargaining Committee:

Jane Batterink - jbatterink@cupe218.ca

Darlene Sasseville - darlene.sasseville@cupe.ca

Judy White - judy.white@cupe218.ca

CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE - CATHOLIC BOARD

April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We hope you are having a great start to April! I know this is a strange time, but we are all in this boat together. Please stay safe at home, and remember to only go out for the essentials for yourself and your family.

We have no grievances at this time. The Board has offered employment to a couple of people to fill two of the four empty positions. They are still looking to fill the HVAC and security positions. If you know anyone who is experienced in these trades or has the papers to fill these positions, please ask them to send their resume to DCDSB. As for our floater compliment, we are hearing that they are in the process of going through the resumes to hire new floaters onto the Board, so they can finally fill empty positions.

We met with the Board on March 10th and 11th for local negotiations. We had more dates to meet with the Board on April 1st, 2nd and the 3rd, but because of the situation, we are not meeting with them; instead, we trying to get some stuff resolved online.

We just want to take this time to thank all the custodians and maintenance staff for their hard work during the school year. We would like to thank all the custodians who volunteered to help with the deep cleaning of the school. Management was very happy with everyone that worked during March break, and they were saying what a dedicated staff we have at the DCDSB. We want to thank all the maintenance staff for installing the new hand sanitizing stations at the front doors of all schools. Thanks again for all your hard work!

If you do not have access to your CUPE 218 email, please be sure to contact Sue Wilkinson at the union office (swilkinson@cupe218.ca) for your login information; this information will give you access to both your email and the members' area of our website. We encourage you to log in so that you have access to the latest updates concerning your union. Please also keep in mind that if you have been injured on or off the job, it is important to keep the union office informed.

Please contact one of your reps listed below if you have any questions or concerns. We will do our best to provide the answers and/or support that is required.

In solidarity,

Sean Hebert - shebert@cupe218.ca

Natalie Melich - nmelich@cupe218.ca

Dave Slater - dslater@cupe218.ca

Eric Publow - eric.publow@cupe.ca

CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE - PUBLIC BOARD

April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to start off with wishing everyone a happy Easter; hopefully winter is behind us.

The Bargaining Committee met with the Employer in early March to exchange proposals. We had bargaining dates scheduled for March 23rd, 24th and the 31st. These dates were cancelled because of the school closures caused by COVID-19. We have been communicating with the Employer regarding other possible means of bargaining.

I'm sure everyone is wondering what the future will bring. I can assure you that the OSBCU and our Local Executive are communicating on a daily basis with the government and the Employer. We will post all confirmed information on the Local's website as it is received.

The government has left it up to the school boards to continue paying us 100% of our wages. This is with the understanding that we could possibly be recalled back to work. As previously mentioned, we are discussing all scenarios with the government and the Employer. We have had a discussion with the Employer regarding school checks and the possibility of custodial maintenance returning to work. On Tuesday, April 7th, all employees of the custodial maintenance unit will return to work on the day shift. Cafeteria assistance will begin cleaning equipment in the kitchens, maintenance employees will continue to complete work orders, and custodial staff will start cleaning as if it was summer cleanup. The Employer has assured us that all needed personal protective equipment will be provided. Please remember to keep the six (6) feet distance rule in mind and practice safe precautions. I have put forward our concerns and suggestions. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your supervisor and/or union representative.

Where there is uncertainty, stress and anxiety, we look for resolution or some form of conformation. All of us are dealing with this in some form or another. There are family, friends and coworkers that might be struggling differently than others. Please be mindful of your loved ones, and if you or a family member are in need of help, please remember that we have an [Employee Family Assistance Program \(1-844-880-9142\)](#) and [Kids Help Phone \(1-800-668-6868\)](#). And as always, your union committee is always here for you (905-571-7879).

We have 16 grievances with the possibility of an additional grievance being filed. I have brought forward our concerns of how the employer has been conducting work which violates our collective agreement. We have agreed to extend grievance submission timelines given the unique situation that we all are dealing with.

The seniority list was made available to all members; there were a few mistakes. I have spoken to the Employer with regards to these mistakes, and they have agreed to make corrections. I would speculate that this will take some time because of the self-isolation regulations. Once the corrections have been made, we will post the list on our Local's website.

CUSTODIAL / MAINTENANCE - PUBLIC BOARD

(Cont'd)

As I'm sure you can understand, all day-to-day business is moving slowly. Ability management is trying their best at processing files. If you are able to submit medical documentation to the employer, it is imperative that you also submit medical documentation to the disability team here at the Union Office. You can email your medical to Carrie and I (carrieboisvert@cupe218.ca/dgibbs@cupe218.ca) or fax it (905-571-4102).

In closing, the committee would like to wish everyone good health and strength.

Yours in Solidarity,

Dennis Gibbs

Chairperson and Disability Representative
dgibbs@cupe218.ca

Bargaining Committee, Stewards:

Bob Montgomery - bmontgomery@cupe218.ca

Kurt Badgley - kbadgley@cupe218.ca

Dan Fusco - dan.fusco@cupe218.ca

Dan Mills (Health and Safety Rep.) - daniel.mills@cupe218.ca

John Allan - john.allan@cupe218.ca

Jeff Goodwin - jgoodwin@cupe218.ca

Tom Simpson - thomas.simpson@cupe218.ca

Robin Fair - robin.fair@cupe218.ca

Nino Scanga

CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE - HEALTH AND SAFETY

PUBLIC BOARD

April 2020

Hello to all members!

I hope that everyone and their families are staying healthy and safe. I realize that these times are not easy and a huge change to what we are used to.

It's important that we adhere to what we are being asked to do, as the risks of this virus are real and precautions are the only way to beat or diminish its effects on all of us at this time.

Going forward, there is still a lot of uncertainty around whether or not we will be returning to work and how it will look if we do. We need to make sure all precautions are looked at before this happens. I can assure you that our local executive and the OSBCU are in contact with the Board and government to ensure we will not be put in harm's way and that all circumstances are looked at.

I am also here to assist as best possible, even if management thinks I have over-stepped my boundaries. I am bound by OHSA as a certified representative to assist members with their concerns - even under this type of situation. I can share resources that are creditable around COVID-19 and precautions that should be taken. The Board has also emailed everyone links for mental health that can be used if required at this difficult time.

If we do return to work, be sure to follow precautions, any training, and wear provided PPE. Work safely as always and follow the internal responsibility system; if unsure of anything, put your safety first, report it to your supervisor for clarification, and be sure the union is aware. Please don't put yourself in unsafe conditions.

We are all in this together! Continue to use the Facebook page and have conversations, and if comfortable, share and get to know each other; it helps in the end. Lastly, I would like to leave a shout-out to all the essential workers and their families. What they have done and are doing for everyone should be realized and respected! A big thanks to all of them.

Dan Mills

**Health and Safety Representative for
Custodial Maintenance CUPE 218**

**Take care, and "I will see you along the path."
Contact me if needed!**

Email: daniel.mills@cupe218.ca

Phone: 905-571-7879

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - CATHOLIC BOARD

April 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I was going to start off this newsletter welcoming you all back from a restful March break, but as you know – sadly – we are not back at work. As I write this, I am realizing that it has now been 21 days since the announcement was made. I was driving home from my last day of work when my daughter called me with the news that the Minister of Education was closing the schools for three weeks. I also found out that the Board heard it on the news as well, so we were all caught unaware!

Now that the three weeks have passed, we now know we will have to stay home for another month or longer. On a personal note, today I had a low day, as I miss my students, my friends, and co-workers. I know you are feeling low too! We – as your committee – pray you are all safe and healthy and that you are continuing to stay in your homes. If the sun is shining, go sit in the backyard with your family or go for a walk. We realize we will be working in some capacity, but take the time while the sun is out. Spend time with your kids. My son is 16, and he is low; he states that, right now, he would be getting his license or even a part-time job. I'm sure your children are feeling it too, so look after yourself and your mental health as well, so you can look after them in turn. Stay home so we can “flatten the curve” and get back to the job we love and the students we all care about. If you are the only person in your house having to go out for essentials, as I am, I know how weird and scary our new world is. Follow the rules of social distancing, and make sure you get everything you need so you don't have to venture out for things too often. Asthma is in my house, so when I get home, I leave my shoes outside, put my clothes directly into the washing machine, and I shower. Then I spend a few days worrying if I brought the COVID-19 virus into my house.

The Board has announced that we are now in Phase II of distant learning. We, as your representatives, have been in touch with “student services” at least twice

daily and when new updates are forthcoming. Students services and the administrative staff have been working long days on behalf of our students and staff to plan and create what our “workday” would look like. They have been in consultation with us regularly, and now they have the beginnings of a plan.

I would like to now share a message from our Superintendent of Student Services Janine Bowyer.

Janine says:

Thank you to all the Educational Assistants who are ready and willing to come up with creative solutions to support our students with special education needs. I feel that we are well-prepared as a Board with your support and expertise to provide parents with the support they are looking for in these unprecedented times.

By now, your PSTs and Principal would have shared with you what your role will look like in the coming days. As we get further into the collaborative planning with parents, this will become all the clearer for you. In the meantime, I ask for your patience as we build this new way of operating.

I know that many people are eager to reconnect with their students, but this type of communication is new territory for us, so we want to make sure we get it right before we engage in real-time communication with our students. We are in the process of developing a protocol for real-time communication with students.

Please take care of yourselves!

We can't say enough about the incredible work Janine has done to navigate and plan a way for us to work while remaining at home, and we thank her for this.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - CATHOLIC BOARD

(Cont'd)

On that note, we need to be patient with them because they too are trying to figure this all out as they go and have spent long days in virtual meetings. We realize a lot of you have already heard from your program support teachers with the news that we will be supporting our students in the virtual or email world. The Board is continuing to ascertain how that will work. However, Janine has told us that any tasks that we do are to be teacher-driven as we do not plan. We need to be available to work collaboratively on tasks that will support our students. If your program support teachers ask you to plan for a student, please remind them that the tasks are teacher-driven and that you will give suggestions collaboratively as you all know your students the best. For instance, you may know what level your student is at in math. The teacher may not know this, so she may ask to find material or even give you material to facilitate your student's learning while at home. If they are continually asking you to plan and are not working collaboratively with you as a team, please let us know so we can contact our Superintendent.

If any LTO Educational Assistants are concerned about the continuation of their placement in a school, please contact the principal. It is my understanding that the Board will continue to abide by the commitments that were made to any LTOs. The only reason, at this time, that an LTO would be removed from their position is if an employee they are replacing returns. Again, this is an HR issue, so if you have concerns, the principal is your first point of contact.

Please continue to check both your CUPE and work emails twice daily for any updates. Always make sure you are available for work during your normal workday hours. Check out the OSBCU and CUPE 218 on social media such as Twitter. Please be aware of what you are posting on social media as, right now, we are very lucky to be able to work from home and be paid at the same time. There are now thousands – if not millions – who have been laid off or have even lost their jobs. Some are self-employed and therefore cannot apply for EI.

If you are ill and cannot be available to work, please continue to use your SFE to report absences.

On a brighter note and perhaps to cheer you all up, here is a picture of my neighbour's two teenagers who got outside and did an art project. I kept my distance, but gave them both an air hug. I miss them both!



Please know that we understand these are trying and sometimes scary times. We are here for you if you need us. If you need to reach out for support, there are benefits such as EAP and "The Big White Wall," among other sites that you can contact.

We pray that we will flatten the curve and all return to be together, healthy and happy again, soon!

If you are in need of LTD assistance, please contact the CUPE Office at: office@cupe218.ca

If you are having a problem with your email, please contact Sue Wilkinson at: swilkinson@cupe218.ca

If you need to contact us, we can be reached at:

Maureen Cope
Bargaining Chair, Catholic Board
Educational Assistant
maureen.cope@cupe218.ca

Bargaining Committee

Carrie Boisvert - carrie.boisvert@cupe218.ca

Bobbi Jo Agius - bobbijo.agius@cupe218.ca

Steward

Shelagh Cauchi - shelagh.cauchi@cupe218.ca

Keep in mind that if we don't return your call right away, it is because we are also working and are not allowed to conduct union business while working.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - PUBLIC BOARD

April 2020

Hi Everyone,

I want to start off with an apology. I was away and did not get the newsletter info in for last month.

I was shocked to come back to a completely different Canada and, really, a world like we could have never imagined. There are so many changes and uncertainties for all. I'm going to fill you in on a few things that are/aren't taking place.

BARGAINING

- At this time, we will not be continuing with bargaining. This will resume at a later time.

STAFFING

- The staffing process will move forward as usual. Before the March break, schools had been notified as to which classes were closing, and Admin were to notify the EAs affected. Sharon (if she hasn't by the time this comes out) will be calling all of these EAs to discuss the process. She will then be following that call up with an email.
- The yearly Surplus/Transfer Letter will (or already has) come out to everyone's board email address. Those who are looking for a change can reply to Sharon that they would like to place their name on the list.
- The new classes opening will be posted. There will be 10 postings with two people required for each class. If a type of class has closed within your school and a different type of class has opened, it must be posted. For example, if an SLC closes and a PLP opens, this is a different type of class, even though there could be many of the same students in it.

- We're not sure when the Board's allocation committee will be meeting, so we are unaware of when the next steps will take place. We will update you as we receive the info.

EAs' ROLE WHILE ON HOME ASSIGNMENT

As of the time I'm writing this, we have been working with the Board in being able to have the EAs/Outdoor Ed Instructors work while on home assignment.

There have been a lot of really good conversations, and there are many great ideas and info coming in from many EAs as well as from the OSBCU and other Boards.

The Minister of Education knows how much we care about the students and wants us to be actively involved in our students' learning, while keeping them and ourselves at home and safe.

Everyone needs to be checking their Board email every day, and if you have any questions or concerns regarding what you are to do, you need to contact your Admin.

*** I don't want to sound harsh, but I need to be honest here. Please be reminded that full-time and LTOs are still being paid by the DDSB during this time, and as such, you are expected to be home and available for work; this means that you are not to be working for another employer during your regular working hours. If so, that could be considered fraud. ***

DISABILITY MANAGEMENT

During this time, while everyone is working from home, everyone at the board office is as well. Therefore, there are no return-to-work meetings taking place, although we are still working with the Case Managers in trying to get those who were either working or who are able to return on a plan – back to regular payroll and off of their sick leave.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - PUBLIC BOARD

(Cont'd)

LTD

For any member who is getting towards the end of their sick days and is still unable to return to work, the Case Managers have been sending out emails with LTD packages.

***Due to confidentiality, the Board is not copying the Union in on these emails. If you sign the waiver for the Union to have the Eligibility Letter and return it to your Case Manager, they will forward the letter to us. We ask that you share your LTD email with us so that we can print it off and put it in your file at the office.

STAY SAFE AND FLATTEN THE CURVE

- What's going on right now is something we could never have dreamed of. It's a different and scary world right now with many uncertainties.
- We need to stay connected. Make sure you check your DDSB and CUPE emails continually for any direction and info.

Many people will struggle during this time. I'm asking you all to please touch base with not only just your families, friends and neighbours, but also your coworkers. We have built relationships with those we work with, and we need to check in on everyone. Reach out and make sure they're ok. We don't know what everyone is struggling with, and sometimes even just that little message of "Hi, I was thinking of you today!" can make a big difference for someone.

There are many good articles available on how to take care of yourself and your own mental health. We all need to practice taking care of ourselves as well. Our Boards both have assistance programs. DDSB has sent

everyone an email with how to access it. Please take advantage of this if needed.

I also wanted to ask you all that when you are out getting your groceries or medications – or wherever you've had to go to for essentials – remember to thank those who are stocking the shelves, cashing you out, assisting or serving you. At times, they feel like the forgotten ones. I can tell you from my personal experience: I thanked a high school student who was stocking a shelf in the grocery store I was at, and he got the biggest smile and said - "No one thanks me. I really appreciate that!" I saw him in another aisle and he yelled down to me - "You made my day!" To me, it was something small, but to him, it meant a lot.

There are so many people on the frontlines as well as countless others still working every day in a variety of jobs and behind the scenes to keep everything going. They all need our thanks and respect.

Together, we **CAN** and **WILL FLATTEN THE CURVE**.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS - PUBLIC BOARD

(Cont'd)

Contact Your Rep/Steward

Below is contact information for the rep/steward of your area and the school you work at.

Public Board EA Area and Contact – Please contact the rep or steward for your Area School via your CUPE email address. *We are not to use the DDSB email* for any union business.

SCHOOL AREA	CONTACT PERSON (REP)	CONTACT INFO
Ajax & Pickering Elementary Schools	Brandy Townson (Steward)	brandy.townson@cupe218.ca
Northern –Elementary Schools	Deb Kennelly (Steward)	deborah.kennelly@cupe218.ca
Oshawa Elementary (Adelaide Mclaughlin P.S.– Jeanne Sauve P.S.)	Fil Wylie (Steward)	filomena.wylie@cupe218.ca
Oshawa Elementary (Kedron P.S. – Woodcrest P.S.)	Sue Wilkinson (Rep and Office Contact For CUPE Email, Benefits and OTIP)	swilkinson@cupe218.ca
All High Schools	Tracey Lesperance (Rep, Health & Safety)	tracey.lesperance@cupe218.ca
Supplies - Board Meetings and CUPE EA Collaborator	Glen Morrison (Rep)	gmorrison@cupe218.ca
Whitby Elementary Schools -Office / Disability Management Rep	Lori Richards (Chairperson)	lrichards@cupe218.ca

BE SOMEBODY WHO MAKES EVERYBODY FEEL LIKE A SOMEBODY! YOU ALL ARE AMAZING!

In Solidarity,

Bargaining Reps, Public Board

Sue Wilkinson, Glen Morrison and Tracey Lesperance

Stewards

Brandy Townson, Fil Wylie and Deb Kennelly

Chairperson/Disability Management Rep

Lori Richards

OFFICE/CLERICAL/TECHNICAL - PUBLIC BOARD

April 2020

Well, these sure are trying times. I hope that everyone is healthy and safe. I'm sure that, by now, everyone knows that we will be off work until May.

I have a few updates for OCT: Principals will be reaching out to secretaries to discuss working remotely and to ensure that they have all the tools required to do so. The Board also wants emails checked every day.

The IT Department has been and will continue to work.

All Board updates have also been posted on our union website (www.cupe218.ca). Please make sure to check back daily, as we sometimes receive updates hourly.

The new seniority lists have come out, and I have found many errors. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

Please remember to practice social distancing and stay healthy.

OCT Committee Contact Information

OCT Chairperson	Karen White	kwhite@cupe218.ca
Education Centre Rep	Leeann Finlay	leanne.finlay@cupe218.ca
Elementary Schools Rep	Allison Petty	allison.petty@cupe218.ca
Secondary Schools Rep	Antony Nembhard	antony.nembhard@cupe218.ca

SECRETARIAL / CLERICAL / TECHNICAL CATHOLIC BOARD

April 2020

I believe it can be said that this last month has been one of the strangest and scariest we have ever had – from the unprecedented closing of the school systems to the progressively increasing restrictions on our daily lives. We likely face several more months of social isolation and distancing from our friends and families, and while it is difficult to be this isolated, it is critically important if we are to have a chance to slow the spread of COVID-19.

I hope that everyone is staying safe, as are your families. Hopefully you have not driven each other to mark sections of the floor with names yet.

Now on to business: We have had a few remote sessions with the committee to discuss bargaining issues, but we have not yet had another meeting with the employer at this time.

Please check your CUPE email regularly for updates. Important information will be sent to this address, and some of it may be time-sensitive.

If you must go to a Board site for work, please ensure that you are safe. The government has shut everything down for a reason, and it doesn't help anyone if we are out there either getting infected or potentially spreading the virus. If you are asked to do something that you believe is unsafe, please remember you have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you have questions, please contact someone on the committee for assistance.

If you do not have any technology or internet access at home and you require it to do the work that is being asked of you, please ensure that your supervisors and administrators are aware. I believe that a survey was already conducted, but if you missed it, please let them know as soon as possible.

We are still employees of the Board, and as we are being paid, many of us are working from home. Even if you are working remotely, remember you still get your breaks and your lunch hour.

Please be cautious of what applications you are using to work on the Board's business. Be sure to only be using applications that are provided or suggested by the Board to ensure that any data privacy issues will not come back to you. As always, please be cautious of any suspicious emails or texts you get. There are a lot of unscrupulous people that are trying to take advantage of this situation.

We still have a labour management date scheduled for May 6th, 2020, but I suspect this will be suspended along with everything else as we move forward.

Changing lanes now: What is everyone doing to stay safe while also getting their grocery shopping done? So far, I haven't had to go into any store other than our local pet store for pet food. We have been using the curbside pickup options for all our groceries. It's a bit of a pain to book a time, but I think it's worth it not to have to go in. There are other third-party apps that allow you to order delivery of groceries, but just be careful of the fees; it can get quite expensive.

Mike Morris
Chairperson
mmorris@cupe218.ca

Sandra Ribeiro-Dantas
Bargaining Committee
sandra.dantas@cupe218.ca

Jennifer Del Gatto
Bargaining Committee

OTIP UPDATES

April 2020

The OTIP Bursary Program is turning 25!

Do you know a student who could use \$1,500? Now open for applications, the OTIP Bursary Program, offered by the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP), is awarding 25 bursaries — the most since the program's inception! If you or a close relative will be attending post-secondary school during the 2020-21 academic year, you have a chance to win \$1,500 to help with school expenses.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article66



COVID-19: We're here to help!

As the situation with COVID-19 keeps evolving, OTIP continues to work closely with its stakeholders and partners to make proactive decisions that are grounded in care for its members and employees. Learn what you need to know about access OTIP's services during this time.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article67

Deadline extension: OTIP Sponsorship of School Projects and Initiatives Program submissions due April 30, 2020

At OTIP we know that within the education community there are many member-led school projects or initiatives that support learning, provide an enriched experience or make a difference to those in need. Through the OTIP Sponsorship of School Projects and Initiatives Program, members can submit a video application with the chance of winning \$5,000 towards their project. With schools across Ontario closed the decision has been made to extend the submission deadline, with applications now being accepted until April 30, 2020.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/



SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

Edvantage Card

Your Edvantage Card gives you special access to discounts on things like car insurance, Canada's Wonderland passes, GoodLife memberships, retail purchases and more!

Don't have an Edvantage Card?
Contact Sue Wilkinson at swilkinson@cupe218.ca to request yours today!

The logo for Edvantage, featuring the word "Edvantage" in a red, stylized font.

Oshawa Tribute Centre

As a CUPE 218 member, you can get exclusive discounts for events at the Oshawa Tribute Centre! Visit the Members' Portal to take advantage of the discounts available to members.

Don't have a CUPE 218 Members' Portal account?
Contact Sue Wilkinson at swilkinson@cupe218.ca to gain access.

The logo for Tribute communities Centre, featuring the word "Tribute" in a large, bold, blue font, "communities" in a smaller, blue font below it, and "Centre" in a bold, blue font below that.