

Update

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POST-ELECTION ISSUE

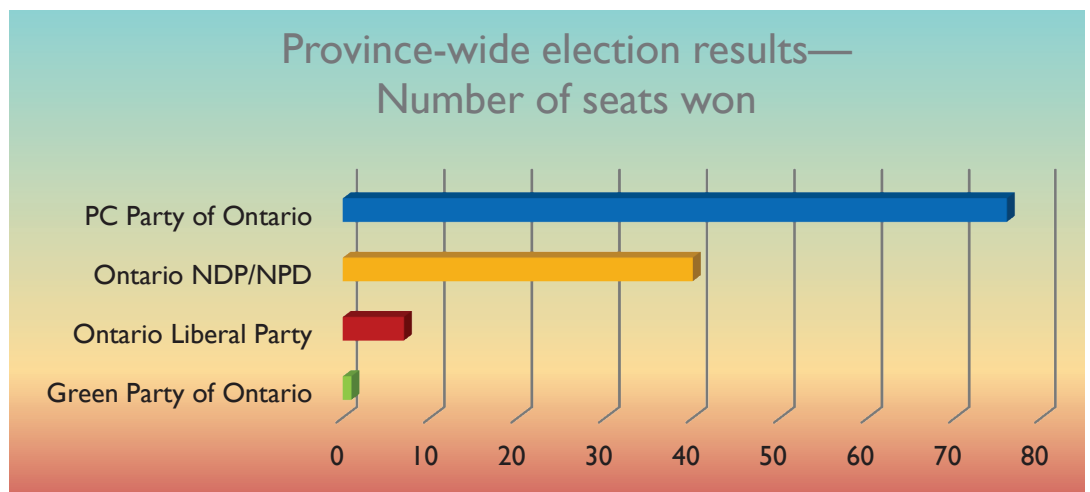
PCs WIN MAJORITY GOVERNMENT

Almost three months after winning the Ontario Progressive leadership contest, Doug Ford has led his party to a majority government in the June 7 provincial election. Riding a strong wave of anti-Liberal and anti-Kathleen Wynne sentiment, Ford bested the NDP as the chosen alternative by Ontarians.

Despite winning an impressive 76 of the 124 seats in the newly expanded provincial parliament, Ford’s campaign was almost tripped up by his own lackluster performance and a resurgent NDP leader Andrea Horwath. As the campaign progressed, especially after the two first leaders’ debates, Andrea Horwath’s momentum grew and she appeared well-positioned to win, as some polls showed her in the lead and others showed her tied with Ford. But, the final two weeks saw the NDP momentum stall and then slip slightly. A number of factors could have contributed to that. A number of commentators suggested that Horwath’s performance in the final debate was uneven, whereas Wynne was seen by many as the winner. As well, the strategic decision by the PCs to pivot their attack ads towards the NDP allowed them to undermine the NDP’s momentum. First, the PCs raised the spectre of Bob Rae’s NDP government of the early 1990s that saw a recession hit Ontario. They also attacked the NDP for having “radical” candidates who challenged the symbolism around wearing a poppy and proposed raising gasoline prices by 35 cents a litre.

At the same time, the PCs started to surround Ford with some prospective cabinet members to show their readiness to lead. Specifically, they had prominent female candidates Christine Elliott and Caroline Mulroney at his side to suggest that he had support from women. In contrast, despite being taunted by the PCs, the NDP never showed their potential cabinet team around Horwath, preferring to instead showcase her leadership. In hindsight, a photo-op with many of her established MPPs may have given Horwath an opportunity to emphasize her leadership team, specifically well-established candidates who could not be accused of being “radical”.

Nonetheless, Horwath generally ran a very



strong campaign and presented Ontarians a solid alternative to both Wynne and Ford. The strategic decision to outline an election platform to the left of Wynne allowed Horwath to undercut any potential resurgence by Wynne with progressive voters. Horwath gave progressives, who were greatly disappointed by Wynne’s sale of a majority stake in Hydro, a safer place to cast their vote. And, once progressives decided that Horwath was their choice, she effectively neutralized Wynne’s potential growth.

For Wynne, her re-election chances were probably doomed the moment she decided to sell a majority of Hydro to private interests. Prior to that decision, Wynne had effectively portrayed herself as the defender of the public realm, particularly in contrast to former PC leader Tim Hudak’s 2014 election promise to eliminate 100,000 public servant jobs. Once she lost her brand as the defender of the public realm, her subsequent efforts to recapture progressive voters through hikes to the minimum wage, child-care improvements and labour law enhancements were seen by many as cynical political ploys. Then, when Horwath’s NDP presented their election platform with additional progressive measures, Wynne’s opportunity to regain progressive voters was seriously undermined and her fate was sealed. All that Wynne could do now was try to salvage enough seats to retain the Liberals’ official party status in the Legislature.

Looking ahead to what a Doug Ford majority government might look like, despite his photo-ops showcasing a leadership team, it is likely that

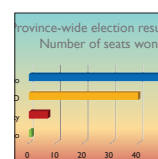
Ford will be inclined to run a one-person operation. His background as a business owner will reinforce that inclination and, in practical terms, the power vested in the Premier’s office by our parliamentary system is well-suited for that lone-wolf leader type. For those who think that the formality and prestige of the Premier’s office or the influence of his advisers will temper Ford’s character, one need only look to Donald Trump to see how the perceived decorum and momentous responsibilities of the Presidency of the United States has moderated him. We should expect Premier Doug Ford to think and act like the Doug Ford we have already come to know. 🇨🇦

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LES PC OBTIENNENT UN GOUVERNEMENT MAJORITAIRE

Trois mois à peine après avoir remporté la campagne à la direction des progressistes-conservateurs de l'Ontario, Doug Ford a mené son parti à former un gouvernement majoritaire lors des élections provinciales du 7 juin. Se laissant porter par une forte vague antilibérale et le sentiment anti-Kathleen Wynne, Doug Ford l'a emporté sur le NPD, solution retenue par les Ontariennes et Ontariens.

Malgré son impressionnante victoire de 76 des 124 sièges du parlement provincial nouvellement élargi, la campagne de Doug Ford a été presque détruite par son piètre rendement et la remontée d'Andrea Horwath, chef du NPD. À mesure qu'avancait la campagne, surtout après les deux premiers débats des chefs, l'élan d'Andrea Horwath a pris de l'ampleur et elle est apparue bien placée pour l'emporter. Certains sondages indiquaient qu'elle était en avance tandis que d'autres la montraient à égalité avec Doug Ford. Mais voici que dans les deux dernières semaines, l'élan du

NPD a ralenti puis s'est affaibli légèrement. Plusieurs facteurs ont pu y contribuer. Certains commentateurs suggèrent que la performance d'Andrea Horwath lors du dernier débat a été inégale alors que plusieurs voyaient Kathleen Wynne comme la vainqueur. Également, la décision stratégique du PC de rediriger ses publicités offensives vers le NPD lui a permis de miner l'élan du NPD. Tout d'abord, le PC a fait référence au spectre du gouvernement néodémocrate de Bob Rae, au début des années 1990, qui a fait que l'Ontario a été frappé par une récession. Ils ont aussi attaqué le NPD pour avoir des candidats « radicaux » qui ont contesté le symbolisme entourant le port du coquelicot et ont proposé une augmentation du prix de l'essence de 35 cents le litre.

En même temps, les PC ont commencé à encercler Doug Ford avec de futurs membres du conseil des ministres afin de manifester leur empressement à diriger. Tout particulièrement, il avait des candidates bien en vue à ses côtés, Christine Elliott et Caroline Mulroney, laissant entendre qu'il avait l'appui des femmes. En revanche, malgré le fait que le PC les ait nargués, le NPD n'a jamais présenté son éventuelle équipe du conseil des ministres entourant Andrea Horwath, préférant plutôt mettre en valeur son leadership. Avec du recul, une séance de photos avec plusieurs de ses députés provinciaux établis aurait pu lui donner l'occasion de faire ressortir son équipe de direction, plus particulièrement les candidats bien établis qu'on ne pourrait pas accuser d'être « radicaux ».

Néanmoins, Andrea Horwath a mené en général une très forte campagne et a présenté aux Ontariennes et Ontariens une option sérieuse tant à Kathleen Wynne qu'à Doug Ford. La décision stratégique de présenter un programme électoral à gauche de Kathleen a permis à Andrea d'amoinrir tout regain de Kathleen auprès des électeurs progressistes. Andrea a donné aux progressistes, qui étaient extrêmement déçus par la vente de la participation majoritaire dans Hydro par Kathleen Wynne, une option plus sûre pour exprimer leur vote. Et, quand les progressistes

ont décidé qu'Andrea Horwath était leur choix, elle a neutralisé la croissance potentielle de Kathleen.

Pour Kathleen Wynne, ses chances de se faire réélire ont probablement été vouées à l'échec dès l'instant où elle a décidé de vendre la majorité d'Hydro à des intérêts privés. Avant cette décision, Kathleen se représentait réellement comme la défenseure du secteur public, en particulier comparativement à la promesse électorale de 2014 de Tim Hudak, ancien chef du PC, d'éliminer 100 000 postes de fonctionnaires. Dès qu'elle a perdu sa marque de défenseure du secteur public, ses efforts subséquents pour reconquérir les électeurs progressistes par des augmentations au salaire minimum, des avancées en matière de garde d'enfants et des améliorations aux lois du travail ont été considérés par plusieurs de stratagèmes politiques cyniques. Ensuite, lorsque les néodémocrates d'Andrea Horwath ont présenté leur programme électoral avec de nouvelles mesures progressistes, la chance de Kathleen de récupérer des électeurs progressistes a été fortement minée et son sort était scellé. Tout ce qu'elle pouvait faire à ce moment, c'était d'essayer de sauver suffisamment de sièges pour conserver le statut de parti officiel pour les Libéraux à l'Assemblée législative.

Quant à ce que nous réserve le gouvernement majoritaire de Doug Ford, malgré ses séances de photos mettant en valeur une équipe de direction, il est probable que Doug Ford aura tendance à mener seul. Sa carrière en affaires réaffirmera cette propension et, concrètement, le pouvoir dévolu au premier ministre par notre système parlementaire convient très bien à ce type de leader solitaire. À ceux qui pensent que la formalité et la notoriété du poste de premier ministre ou l'influence de ses conseillers atténueront le caractère de Doug Ford, il suffit de regarder Donald Trump pour constater à quel point le décorum perçu et les responsabilités très importantes de la présidence des États-Unis l'ont adouci. Nous devrions nous attendre du premier ministre Doug Ford qu'il pense et qu'il agisse comme le Doug Ford que nous avons appris à connaître. ☺

Update

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The guide is available at www.ontario.ca/document/workplace-violence-school-boards-guide-law

Le guide est disponible à www.ontario.ca/fr/document/violence-au-travail-dans-les-conseils-scolaires-un-guide-de-la-loi



AWARDS BESTOWED AT JUNE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

EACH YEAR AT JUNE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, OSSTF/FEESO TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE OUTSTANDING WORK AND TIME GIVEN BY MEMBERS ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERATION WITH AWARDS OF RECOGNITION. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MEMBER AWARDS SECTION OF THE PROVINCIAL WEBSITE. CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS.



Provincial Executive Award

The Provincial Executive Award is given to "A Member, who in the opinion of the Provincial Executive has rendered meritorious and outstanding services to the OSSTF/FEESO at both the provincial and local level is eligible for the Provincial Executive Award." This year, the Provincial Executive Award has been awarded to Ronnie Whitcomb, District 23, Grand Erie. Ronnie's entire career has been spent as an engaged local leader and activist, and most of her work has been as a volunteer. Her passion and commitment are infectious, and she has a seemingly endless level of energy and drive to continue to do whatever it takes to get a job done, and done well. She embodies everything OSSTF/FEESO stands for and consistently strives to improve our union and, in combination with her work on her local labour council, society as a whole.

Norm Snyder Award

The Provincial Executive established the Norm Snyder Award for a member or members, nominated locally, who have made an outstanding contribution to OSSTF/FEESO locally and/or provincially, mainly as a volunteer; in other words, to recognize those members who followed in Norm Snyder's path of selfless and outstanding service to this union and its members.

This year Provincial Executive is proud to add to the Norm Snyder Award Honour Role the name of Roberta (Bobbi) Pentland, nominated by District 21, Hamilton. Roberta has served willingly in a vast array of roles within OSSTF and has been an inspiration for new members who have not yet been engaged. She educates and informs our members about the importance of the Federation and their participation in it.

Roberta is a phenomenal educator and a valued activist in District 21.

Bob Brooks Award

This Award is named for the late principal of Malvern Collegiate Institute and is presented for excellence in school-community relations. This award is bestowed, once in a career, upon an individual OSSTF/FEESO member, a staff, or a Federation group.

Nicole Swain, District 13, Durham who teaches at Brooklin High School in Brooklin, is this year's Bob Brooks Award winner. Nicole teaches biology and environmental studies, and is also a beef and cash crop farmer. She enjoys sharing her family farm experiences with her students and likes to put a face to people who grow food. Nicole loves teaching lessons about soil health, crop protection and precision agriculture, and she has fostered a connection between her school and community by offering students the opportunity to meet members of the agricultural community.

Nicole is passionate about teaching and an excellent ambassador for science and agriculture through her outstanding efforts to bring agricultural literacy to life in her classrooms.



THE NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

In the months leading up to the June 7 provincial election, OSSTF/FEESO developed and released a detailed education platform focused on key issues facing publicly funded education in Ontario. We urged members to use that platform as a basis upon which to evaluate the positions of the major political parties.

As the election loomed closer, it became clear that the Progressive Conservatives' campaign promises offered nothing to suggest that any of these issues were even on their radar. That in itself was cause for concern, but Doug Ford's repeated commitment to slash billions of dollars from the provincial budget—a goal that cannot possibly be achieved without serious consequences for education and virtually all public services—led us to conclude that the election of a PC government would not be in the best interest of OSSTF/FEESO members and the work they do on behalf of students.

Accordingly, OSSTF/FEESO settled on an election strategy that encouraged members to work against the prospect of a PC majority by supporting and voting for OSSTF/FEESO-endorsed candidates in ridings across the province. It's worth noting that, of the 40 seats that were won by the New Democratic Party, 38 were won by candidates that had been endorsed by OSSTF/FEESO.

Nevertheless, on June 7 the people of Ontario elected a majority Progressive Conservative government; on June 29 a new cabinet will be sworn in and Doug Ford will become the Premier of Ontario.

While this is not the result we were hoping for, we will not be adopting a hostile disposition toward the new government from the outset. Instead, we will be firm and forthright in the pursuit of publicly funded education's and our members' interests. We will reach out and make an honest effort to establish a meaningful dialogue, through which we will hope to advocate for the issues that are important to our members. We will attempt to impress upon the government that the students of Ontario are always best served when the government respects and supports the crucial work that our members, and all educators, do on behalf of those students, from junior kindergarten to university.

Beyond offering a truly regressive approach to Health and Physical Education and some bromides regarding other aspects of curriculum and cell phones in class, at the time of writing Doug

Ford has said almost nothing at all about his plans for education once his party transitions to government. If, through frank dialogue and reasoned discussion, we can help to steer his government away from actions that harm the working conditions of our members and the learning conditions of our students, then we will follow that course of action for as long as it remains productive.

That said, we are well aware that it's simply not possible to square any kind of meaningful, ongoing support for our members' work with the budget cuts the PCs promised during the campaign. We must be fully prepared for the very real possibility that this government will veer in directions that would effectively subvert the work of our members and undermine publicly funded education in Ontario.

Should that occur, OSSTF/FEESO will tenaciously oppose those actions by all appropriate means. As always, we must be prepared to adjust our tactics accordingly, but our objective will always be, as it has always been, to advance the interests of our members, and to protect and enhance publicly funded education. ☺

LA NOUVELLE SCÈNE POLITIQUE : UN MESSAGE DE L'EXÉCUTIF PROVINCIAL

Pendant les mois précédant l'élection provinciale du 7 juin, OSSTF/FEESO a élaboré et publié un programme électoral complet en matière d'éducation axé sur les principaux enjeux auxquels est confrontée l'éducation financée à même les deniers publics en Ontario. Nous avons fortement encouragé les membres à se servir de ce programme comme base pour évaluer les positions des grands partis politiques.

Au fur et à mesure que l'élection s'approchait, nous avons vite constaté que les promesses de campagne des progressistes-conservateurs n'offraient rien, laissant entendre qu'aucun de ces enjeux étaient même évoqués. Cette situation en soi a été une source de préoccupation, mais l'engagement réitéré de Doug Ford à sabrer des milliards de dollars du budget provincial, objectif qui ne peut de toute évidence être atteint sans conséquences graves pour l'éducation et pratiquement toute la fonction publique, nous a amenés à conclure que l'élection d'un gouvernement PC ne servirait pas au mieux les intérêts des membres d'OSSTF/FEESO et le travail qu'ils font au nom des élèves.

Par conséquent, OSSTF/FEESO a établi une stratégie électorale qui encourageait les membres à travailler à l'encontre de la perspective d'une majorité PC en appuyant et votant pour les candidates et candidats soutenus par OSSTF/FEESO dans les circonscriptions des quatre coins de la province. Il est à noter que, des 40 sièges remportés par le Nouveau parti démocratique, 38 étaient des candidats soutenus par OSSTF/FEESO.

Néanmoins, le 7 juin, les Ontariennes et Ontariens ont élu un gouvernement progressiste-conservateur majoritaire; le 29 juin, un nouveau conseil des ministres sera assermenté et Doug Ford deviendra le premier ministre de l'Ontario.

Même si le résultat n'est pas celui que nous souhaitons, nous n'adopterons pas d'emblée une attitude hostile envers le nouveau gouvernement. Nous serons plutôt fermes et francs dans la quête des intérêts de l'éducation financée à même les deniers publics et de nos membres. Nous les solliciterons et ferons un effort sincère pour établir un dialogue véritable par lequel nous aspirons défendre les enjeux qui sont importants pour nos membres. Nous tenterons de faire comprendre au gouvernement que les élèves de l'Ontario sont toujours mieux servis lorsque le gouvernement respecte et appuie le travail essentiel réalisé par nos membres et tous les éducateurs, au nom des élèves de la maternelle jusqu'à l'université.

Outre une approche véritablement rétrograde à l'éducation physique et santé et certaines banalités concernant d'autres aspects du programme d'études et les téléphones cellulaires en classe, au moment de rédiger ces lignes, Doug Ford n'a presque rien dit à propos de ses plans en matière d'éducation une fois que son parti aura pris les rênes du gouvernement. Si, grâce à un dialogue franc et pondéré, nous pouvons contribuer à écarter son gouvernement des mesures qui nuisent aux conditions de travail de nos membres et aux conditions d'apprentissage de nos élèves, nous suivrons donc cette ligne de conduite tant qu'elle demeure productive.

Cela dit, nous sommes bien conscients qu'il n'est tout simplement pas possible de concilier tout appui continu véritable au travail de nos membres avec les restrictions budgétaires promises par le PC pendant la campagne. Nous devons être fin prêts pour la très réelle possibilité que ce gouvernement change de cap, ce qui affaiblirait réellement le travail de nos membres et minerait l'éducation financée à même les deniers publics en Ontario.

Si c'est le cas, OSSTF/FEESO s'opposera avec acharnement à ces mesures en ayant recours à tous les moyens appropriés. Comme toujours, nous devons être prêts à rajuster nos stratégies en conséquence, mais notre objectif sera toujours de faire avancer les intérêts de nos membres et de protéger et d'améliorer l'éducation financée à même les deniers publics, comme il l'a toujours été. ☺



LABOUR DAY

For more than a century in Canada labour councils, local union affiliates workers and their families, and others in the community come together for one day every September to recognize and celebrate the central role workers play in our society and the hard-fought benefits achieved by the labour movement. There are over 75 Labour Day celebrations across the country and almost one half of them are in Ontario.

Following the election of a Progressive Conservative government in Ontario, it is more important than ever for union members to show strength and solidarity by celebrating and participating in Labour Day events in your local community.

The 2018 Labour Day theme is **Pharmacare: Let's get it right**. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is encouraging unions and labour councils to mark Labour Day 2018 by building on the momentum gained since the launch of the pharmacare campaign in 2017. Now that it is within reach, we all need to continue the push for a national pharmacare plan that is universal, publicly administered and comprehensive.

The CLC has produced Labour Day materials that districts and members can use at events or on social media. To access the social media banners and sharegraphics go to documents.clc-ctc.ca/communications/LabourDay-2018/Materials/SocialMedia-MediasSociaux.zip

Learn more about the Student Achievement Awards and which of the categories you will enter at
www.osstf.on.ca/studentachievementawards

NINE \$1000 PRIZES TO BE WON

AHEAD BY A CENTURY

OSSTF/FEESO

Remember to plan to engage your students in the 2019 Student Achievement Awards. This year's theme, in honour of OSSTF/FEESO's 100th Anniversary is—Ahead by a Century. The full package, with application forms, tips, guidelines and student announcements that you can use in your school, will be available online in late August. Your school and District offices will receive the beautiful, full-colour poster and package in early September. Students can choose to write, paint, sculpt or even record an original song or video! This award program is a great way to recognize the unique relationship between OSSTF/FEESO staff members and their students as well as giving nine students the opportunity to win \$1000!

- 1918 Canadian women win right to vote
- 1945 United Nations is formed
- 1960 Native Canadians given the vote
- 1989 Berlin Wall falls
- 2005 Same sex marriage becomes legal in Canada
- 2014 Malala Yousafzai becomes the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

IN 2019 THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEDERATION IS CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN HONOUR OF MARION DRYSDALE



MEMBER PROFILE: PAWEL MAZUREK

OSSTF/FEESO is an organization that celebrates our diversity along with our unity. A recent Facebook post by member Pawel Mazurek (District 35—Administrative Support Personnel, Saint Paul University in Ottawa) got me thinking about just how united we truly are, and how important that unity is. You see, Pawel posted a picture of himself becoming a Canadian Citizen. I've known Pawel for just over a year now as a member of our Provincial Communications and Political Action Committee (CPAC), and he has proven to be one of our most astute political activists. So I sat down with Pawel at our last CPAC meeting to learn a little more about one of Canada's newest citizens and his thoughts on politics, Canada, and the Federation.

Pawel came to Canada from Poland about 10 years ago as an exchange student and quickly found Canada had much he found appealing. He has been waiting 10 years to acquire his Canadian Citizenship. He proudly notes that he regularly voted in Poland, and that he's spent the last 10 years becoming engaged in the politics of

his new home. This includes encouraging those around him who could vote to always exercise that right. Coming from a unionist family meant that becoming part of OSSTF/FEESO was an easy fit for him and Pawel became his Bargaining Unit's first Chief Negotiator when District 35 Saint Paul's joined the Federation in early 2016. He celebrates OSSTF/FEESO's ability to create and support ethical citizenship, saying that it's quite remarkable that "with so many different job classes, we can still find common language." His transition to the role was quick as he moved through the learning curve thanks to the support and training of the Federation. He says of his desire to get immediately and deeply involved with OSSTF/FEESO that, "I thought I could contribute but I had to learn a lot. I have a family history of unionism, but my mother in Poland was worried I would be kicked out of Canada for getting involved in the union. My colleagues and I were suffering under our administration without representation from a union. I felt I could help. Alone we can't do anything but together we can be an agent of social change. I didn't want to be a bystander. Then I found out about all the benefits of being in OSSTF/FEESO and I was happy to bring them back to my Bargaining Unit."

When Pawel and I spoke about the Ontario election, which was still two weeks away, Pawel was unwavering in his answers; his passion for social justice is clear. Coming from Poland with its strong social system, issues like health care, housing, caring for the elderly, education, and im-

In Canada we celebrate the right to vote and OSSTF/FEESO helps us understand how our voices can affect change.

migration are important to him. He sees it as the responsibility of a society to take care of others, and it is this conviction that will inform his vote. Pawel sees his first chance to vote in an election in Canada as a reminder to all of the importance of taking part in the political process, noting that "It is always important to vote, it's an obligation. The election will affect you whether you want it to or not. If you don't vote, someone else is making decisions for you. In Canada we celebrate the right to vote and OSSTF/FEESO helps us understand how our voices can affect change."

The right to vote is enshrined in the Canadian Constitution, and for Pawel this right is a precious one, not to be ignored or thrown away. We are both united by this right and, as Pawel reminded me, strongest when we work together to make the lives of all Canadians better.

/Tracey Germa is the 1st Vice-President of the Teacher Bargaining Unit in District 14, Kawartha Pine Ridge and is a member of the provincial Communications and Political Action Committee.

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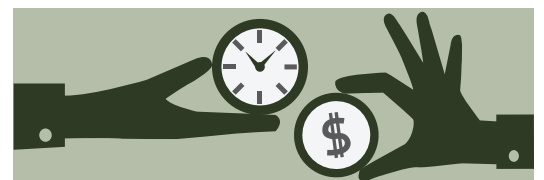
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