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D/BU #155/2025–2026

OSSTF/FEESO Additional Qualification Program Launch

To: Presidents and All Members

From: Gary Fenn, Interim Associate General Secretary – Professional Services

For Information

OSSTF/FEESO is pleased to announce the launch of the **OSSTF/FEESO Additional Qualifications (AQ) Program**. The first session of the AQ Program will run from October 1–December 4, 2026, and the following courses will be offered:

- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies–Part 1, Part 2, Specialist
- Guidance and Career Education–Part 1, Part 2, Specialist
- Special Education–Part 1, Part 2, Specialist

Registration for the Fall 2026 session will be open from July 21–September 21 and participants who register before August 21 will be entered to win a \$100 Everything Card gift card. Members can visit aq.osstf.on.ca to learn more about the course offerings as well as join waitlists for courses of interest and to receive notification when registration opens. Courses are offered at a fee of \$650, however active OSSTF/FEESO members are eligible for a \$50 member discount.

Please note, members intending to take Part 2 or Specialist qualifications must submit a *Teaching Experience* form completed by a Supervisory Officer–members are encouraged to have this documentation completed prior to the end of the school year to ensure it is available at the time of registration.

OSSTF/FEESO AQ courses recognize the need for role and experience specific professional learning for teachers. Courses have been developed by course writing teams composed of OSSTF/FEESO teacher members who are experienced and trusted voices in their subject areas. The goal is to provide AQ courses that reflect the evolving expectations of teaching grades 9–12.

These courses are rooted in accessibility and inclusivity to support modern learners in today's classroom environments. As Ontario classrooms continue to become more diverse, the courses are designed to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills that support student engagement and promote meaningful learning in the secondary context.

Course design has also intentionally considered the secondary school calendar, to reduce barriers to participation. Scheduling decisions have accounted for semester start and end dates, exam periods, and reporting timelines to better align with the professional responsibilities of classroom educators.

A Dropbox of resources about the AQ Program, including district voucher codes for member discounts, will be shared with Teacher/Occasional Teacher Bargaining Units.

For any general inquiries or questions, please contact us at aq-admin@osstf.ca, or connect directly with the OSSTF/FEESO AQ Coordinator, Heather Bamford, at heather.bamford@osstf.ca for additional information or support.

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