

## Summer Office Hours

With the 2025 - 2026 school year drawing to a close, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to every member for the dedication and solidarity you have demonstrated all year long.

Kindly note that the ETFO Niagara office will remain closed starting June 29 through September 1. During the summer break, Released Officers will be monitoring their voicemail and email accounts on a periodic basis.

Should an urgent matter arise, including allegations of a serious nature such as assault, members are advised to contact Professional Relations Services (PRS) at [1-888-838-3836](tel:1-888-838-3836) and request to speak with the duty officer. Your released officers—Brian, Christine, and Jenn—wish you a restorative, safe, and wonderful summer holiday!

## Indigenous History Month

In Canada, National Indigenous History Month honors the multifaceted cultures and significant legacies of Métis, Inuit, and First Nations communities. Alongside Indigenous partners, the Canadian government has marked June 21—the summer solstice—as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

## PRIDE Month

Pride Month serves to honor the triumphs and historical challenges of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. By celebrating diverse identities and rights, we foster a more welcoming and inclusive future for all.

Follow ETFO Niagara on Social Media



## Summer Academy: Honouring the Right to Read and Play

ETFO Niagara is hosting Summer Academy from July 14 - 16, 2026 at the Local Office. Read a brief description of this three day workshop [here](#). The cost of registration is \$75 and may be eligible for reimbursement through the Local [PD fund](#). Registration closes June 29. Register at [events.etfo.org](https://events.etfo.org). (login required)

## Summer Classroom Clean Out

Teachers instructed to clear out their classroom for summer clean-up are responsible only for moving personal items. Relocating school materials, furniture, and instructional resources is not a teacher responsibility.

## ICYMI:

### ETFO Provincial All-Member Meeting

On May 21, 2026, ETFO Provincial VP Mary Fowler visited Niagara to discuss central bargaining and the central strike vote process. She noted that 1,694 of the 55,000 petition signatures collected in February came from Niagara. Fowler challenged Niagara Locals to send 3,000 postcards to Provincial; President Brian Barker accepted, adding that meeting this goal would require Mary to publicly name Niagara her favourite local. Please contact Jenn Sims Murray ([jennifer.simsmurray@etfoniagara.ca](mailto:jennifer.simsmurray@etfoniagara.ca)) for more postcards.

### New Member Program Development Survey

ETFO Niagara is developing a new program for new members (post-NTIP, years 2-5) set to launch for the 2026-2027 school year.

We are seeking feedback in this brief [survey](#) from teachers hired between September 2020 and 2025 to help identify the supports most essential to your early career.

The survey will remain open until midnight on Monday, June 15. A focus group session is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 4:30 pm at the Local office.

### RedForEd

Niagara's **RedForEd** solidarity actions on Mondays for the last few weeks have been very impactful. Continue to send your photos to Public Relations Chair, Pam Belding ([pr@etfoniagara.ca](mailto:pr@etfoniagara.ca)), so she can post them on our socials. We've got two Mondays left until summer break. **RedForEd** days will pick up again in September.

### Period Promise 2026

ETFO Niagara hosted the United Way Golden Horseshoe Period Promise event on May 28. Over 107,000 period products were collected this year and distributed to community organizations in Niagara.

## Our Collective Agreement

### 18.03 (g) Missed Preparation Time

Missed preparation time shall only be rescheduled where a teacher is required by the Principal to provide instruction during their scheduled preparation time for a teacher absent from work. Such rescheduling of missed preparation time shall occur as soon as administratively feasible, but no later than three months after the loss of the preparation time and in any event within the same school year.

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### 18.08 Teacher Absence

The Board shall make every effort to provide a qualified occasional teacher when a classroom teacher is absent. Teachers will not normally be required to assume the instructional and/or supervision duties caused by another staff member's absence.

### 18.09 Reporting of Absence

(a) For the purpose of reporting an unanticipated absence, a teacher should make an entry in Easy Connect prior to 6:45 a.m. on the day of absence. Provided such entry is made before the specified time, this shall be the only reporting of absence required.

(b) If it is necessary for a teacher to report an unanticipated absence after 6:45 a.m., the teacher shall make a phone call to the teacher's school, as directed by the school administration, and make an entry in Easy Connect if so directed.

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If you have questions about your Collective Agreement, contact your released officers: Brian, Christine, and Jennifer.

The full Collective Agreement is in the [Member Portal](#).

## Labour Day Parade

**When:** September 7, 2026 at

10:30am. Parade starts at 11:00am.

**Where:** Starting at the Pen Centre Parking Lot (beside Landmark Cinemas)

As we walk from the Pen Centre to the Merriton Lions Club, we will hand out ETFO Niagara pencils to children attending the parade.

Walkers are invited to join us after the parade for a social celebration at the Pen Centre Boston Pizza.

Please register [here](#) by 4 pm on September 2, 2026 so we can reserve a table.

## Save the Date

June

- 1- RedForEd
- 4- Retirement Dinner
- 8- WUW Celebration
- 8- RedForEd
- 9- Equity Book Club launch
- 15- RedForEd
- 16- Safe Space
- 17- AM Delegates Meeting
- 19- Executive Meeting
- 22- RedForEd
- 29- RedForEd

July

- 14-16 Summer Academy
- August
- 17-20 Provincial Annual Meeting
- 30- ETFO Niagara Office Opens

September

- 7- Labour Day Parade



## ETFO Provincial - All-member Meeting

On June 3, 2026, ETFO served notice to bargain on the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), and informed the government who is a participant at the table. Notice to bargain advises them of ETFO's intention to renegotiate Teacher, Occasional Teacher, DECE, ESP, and PSP collective agreements that will be expiring on August 31, 2026.

Under the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, central table partners must now meet within 15 days, or a mutually agreed upon time, to start discussions that will determine the list of issues to be negotiated at the Teacher/Occasional Teacher and Education Worker central tables. Members will be apprised of these meeting dates when they are confirmed.

**Source:** <https://etfocb.ca/etfo-serves-notice-to-bargain/>



## Your guide to summer road trip travel safety

There's a special kind of magic to hitting the open road in the summer: the sun is shining, your favourite playlist is playing, and endless possibilities lie ahead. Whether you're escaping to cottage country, visiting loved ones, or discovering hidden gems across Canada, road trips are about adventure and making memories at your own pace. Before you set out, a little preparation goes a long way. By checking your vehicle and ensuring you're properly covered, you'll spend less time worrying and more time enjoying every mile. Read more at [www.otip.com/article207](http://www.otip.com/article207). #OTIPUpdate



## Celebrate the end of the school year with a bonus offer!

For the month of **June**, receive a **\$30 gift card** of your choice when you get a car, home or leisure insurance quote. Get [a quote](#) or call 1-888-892-4935 and mention this offer!