

**Annual General Meeting 2014**  
**Report of the President**

The school year 2013-14 saw the signing of the Local Agreement after long negotiations. In a period of Board fiscal restraint and retrenchment, PTU held on to previous gains and negotiated many improvements which the membership had demanded in our original consultations.

The Oversize Class Grievance is still in flux. As of this writing, PTU is awaiting the arbitrator's reply to our request to proceed, firstly, with a hearing on the uncontested clauses and then to deal with the contested clauses.

The Protocol dealing with 2014-2015 prep time for Kindergarten teachers has not yet been renewed. The Board is now pleading lack of money. Discussions will continue.

The June 23<sup>rd</sup> teaching day/ped day/teaching day/ped day/teaching day soap opera is over. My memo to all teachers on this issue certainly got the attention of the Commissioners and the Parents' Committees. In my personal meeting with the Commissioners, I expressed teacher irritability with this issue. Despite the decision coinciding with what the teachers wanted, 9 Commissioners still voted against making June 23<sup>rd</sup> a teaching day.

Our annual PTU Delegates' Weekend took place in a new venue (L'Esterel) and, according to feedback, was highly successful. About 100 people participated in the conferences and workshops, as well as enjoying the magnificent accommodations and surroundings in the Laurentian mountains.

Our retirees will be feted at the annual PTU Retirement Dinner to be held at the Olympia reception hall, with many laughs and fond memories being exchanged by the approximately 80 participants.

The PTU website with its social media cousins (twitter, facebook etc.) is proving very successful with our teachers. It will be the PTU communication tool of the future.

PTU held a number of workshops throughout the year, the elaboration of which will be in the Executive Assistants' reports.

The Committee reports by our Executive members will indicate the ongoing forums for Union/Board information exchanges.

My thanks to both the PTU Executive and Delegates for their time, efforts and opinions. Through you, we get the pulse of the union members.

In our office, Ann Granger and Paul Pompa, the PTU Executive Assistants provide solid analysis and feedback on the many diverse files that they handle. Teachers are in good hands and well protected when dealing with Ann and Paul.

Our administrative staff of Ginette Ritchie, Vivien Dagher and Sonia Dumont - our "first responders" - do an outstanding job of running an efficient office, while giving us any required advance notice on issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTU Treasurer, Dave Walker, for his longstanding involvement and service. Dave is taking his retirement in a few weeks. His commitment, opinions and passion for this union will be missed. I wish for him a happy and high-flying retirement to his farm in Ontario.

To all PTU members, I ask that you use our website to communicate any ideas, opinions or information. This gives you a voice.

Finally, as the President of the PTU, I thank you for your continued support.

Submitted by  
John Donnelly

