

## Communications no. 4

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*John Donnelly*

As we approach the end of the year and a return to normalcy, it's good to reflect on the events that were a part of it.

These were the toughest negotiations in the past 30 years.

The government demands on teacher working conditions were draconian. We all remember them: 1) increased class sizes 2) no funding for Special Needs 3) a 35 hour workweek 4) no more Work of a Personal Nature.

So how did we end up? We retained all our working conditions – the government backed down on all of them.

We beat back much of their pension demands and achieved a grudgingly palatable salary settlement.

Of note, the large independent Francophone union (FAE) finally accepted the same offer on March 23rd – under threat of decree - and it cost them

an extra strike day.

What was a large part of the reason for retaining our working conditions? The PTU actions that alerted and garnered parent and public support.

What were some of the actions? a) 5 PTU Demonstrations b) 3 Quebec-wide teacher demonstrations c) hands around the school actions d) all of the other actions plus e) sustained media coverage of all our actions. The use of our Website and Facebook page was a great communication tool in the sensitizing of the public and legitimizing our resistance to government demands.

Teachers had both a voice through talking to the media and visibility through media coverage.

Pearson Teachers Union members led the charge to educate the public about what the government was trying to do and in the end the government backed down.

But the fight continues. There is still much work to do.

We will soon enter into negotiations with the Board on a new local contract for PTU teachers. We will be consulting our members.

We will form a committee to look at the implementation of electronic voting.

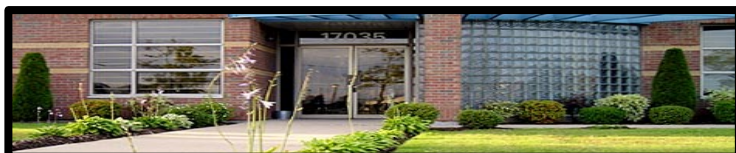
We will look into maximizing our website.

We will be developing procedures to assist teachers who must deal with international students.

Over and above all that, we will begin an initiative to build on the positive publicity we received during the past negotiation with a view to communicating the realities of the teacher workplace to the public - more demands, less resources, less recognition.

The goal is to valorize the teaching profession, let teachers tell their stories and ensure pride in being a teacher.

That will be my Job #1 in the coming year.



## Teachers of the Youth Sector—Follow the Staffing Timeline on SSO!

The complete staffing timeline for 2016-2017 is posted on the SSO system under the Human Resources section. Here are some of the important dates for teachers to remember:

- April 15 Official Seniority Lists available on SSO
- By May 1 Excess Teachers are notified in writing
- May 9 Information session for Excess teachers at the PTU Office
- May 9 Teachers are informed in writing of their request for leave of absence
- May 9-13 Full time vacancies list posted on SSO
- May 9-13 Request for voluntary transfer and job exchange forms available on SSO (2nd round)
- May 17 Information session for Priority of Employment List Teachers at LBPSB
- By May 30 Draft Priority of Employment List posted on SSO
- By June 3 Teachers from Priority list return requests for corrections



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### UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

**\*\*PTU will be holding an information session for Excess Teachers on May 9th, 2016 at 4:30PM at the PTU Office, 17035 Brunswick Blvd in Kirkland.**

David Chisholm, Assistant Director and Line Legault-Fisher, Administrative Technician of Human Resources will also be present at this session to answer questions and explain the protocol and timelines. Once the excess teachers are notified, they will be invited to this information session.



**\*\*An information session for Priority of Employment Teachers will be held on May 17th, 2016 at 4:30PM at the Lester B. Pearson School Board.**

## Continuing Education Teachers: Staffing Timeline

Availability forms **are available since the first week of April for part-time and hourly rate teachers in the Vocational Sector.** Teachers must specify their availabilities for the 2016-2017 school year. **The completed forms must be returned by April 30, 2016.**

Availability forms **will be available during the first week of May for teachers in the Adult Education Sector.**

Teachers must specify their availability for the 2016-2017 school year. **The completed forms must be returned by May 30, 2016.**

It is very important that teachers complete the availability forms.

**Failure to return the form will imply that the teachers is available for any assignment for which he or she is qualified.**



## Are you an hourly rate teacher in the CONTED Sector?



If you are, do you have or are you in the process of acquiring your legal qualifica-

tions? Have you been offered to teach at least 240 hours in Adult Education or at least 216 hours in Vocational Training? Then you are entitled to a part-time contract.

A part-time contract is granted to legally qualified teachers who are offered a predetermined number of hours (240 in Adult Education, 216 in Vocational Training) in a semester and/or school year. To have legal qualifications, you must either have a brevet, a teaching permit or a provisional teaching authorization (PTA). You can also be granted a part-time contract if the school board requests a tole-

rance on your behalf. Even if you start off the school year as an hourly rate teacher and later in the school year you become legally qualified, you might be entitled to a part-time contract. To see if you are entitled to a part-time contract, please contact Paul Pompa at the PTU Office at 514-426-4949 or by email: paul@pearsonteachersunion.com

## E-Transcripts and Attachments

Please note that transcripts and attachments received electronically or through a secure site sent by the Registrar's Office will now be considered as official documents defined in the *Manuel de l'évaluation de la scolarité*.

However, it is important to verify that the transcripts contain at least one signature and emanate from the e-mail address of the educational institution that issued them. Any transcripts or documents **obtained by a teacher** by

email or via Internet are still considered **unofficial** documents.

For any questions on this matter, please contact Diane Krajcar, Human Resources, at the School Board.



## Pearson Teachers Union

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

[www.pearsonteachersunion.com](http://www.pearsonteachersunion.com)

**Follow us!**



## RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS AND INFO

Workshops for teachers who are within 5 years or less of their retirement will be offered by QPAT as follows:

May 16 at Marymount Academy International (Montreal)

May 17 at QPAT (Kirkland)

May 30 at LTU (Laval)

May 31 at Heritage Regional High School (Saint-Hubert)

Details on how to register will be sent to each school and centre and will be posted on our website as soon as they are finalized.

### **IMPORTANT!**

If you are planning to retire in June 2016, please make sure to advise the Board in writing with a copy of your letter to PTU.

A banquet to honour our 2016 Retirees will be held on June 8, 2016. Invitations will be sent out towards the beginning of May. If you are retiring this year or if you or one of your colleagues have retired during the current school year, please let us know!

## **VOCATIONAL Teachers -Important!!!**

It is the responsibility of the teacher in the VOCATIONAL Sector to renew his or her Provincial Teaching Authorization (PTA) on time. PTU has sent a reminder to teachers whose PTAs end in June. Teachers who have full-time contracts also need to renew their PTAs. Receiving full-time contracts does not exempt teachers from continuing their studies and getting their teaching diploma. Not renewing your PTA would lead to drastic results such as losing your contract and returning to being an hourly rate teacher.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Next Delegates' Assembly**

Assembly no. 9  
June 1, 2016 at  
4:30pm at P.E.C.

### **AGM**

Immediately following  
the Assembly no. 9 on  
June 1, 2016 at  
5:30pm at P.E.C.

### **Upcoming Holidays!**

**The PTU Office will be closed  
on the following days:**

**Monday, May 23, 2016**

**Friday, June 24, 2016**

**Friday, July 1, 2016**

### **PTU Regular Office Hours**

Monday to Thursday  
8:30AM to 4:30PM  
Friday  
8:30AM to 4:00PM

### **Summer Closing**

The PTU Office will be  
closed from July 4,  
2016 to August 22,  
2016 inclusive