

**Dufferin-Peel (OECTA)
Representing Elementary Teachers**

6435 Edwards Boulevard, Suite 203
Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2P7
Tel. (905) 564-7177 Fax (905) 564-2536

www.elemdp.com
www.oecta.on.ca

Service to Members
Call Early. Call Often

Volume 23 Issue 2

Editorial Board: Rose Procopio, Michael Schaus
Communications Officer: Michael Schaus

Creator of Our Earth,

Your brilliant trees of autumn inspired us.
Thank you for giving us the inspiration to know
and challenge our students to be brilliant.

Your winter trees hibernated and rested.
Thank you for nourishing us through this time as we
continued the learning journey with our students.

Your spring trees blossomed, bringing us to beauty.
Thank you for the successes we see in our students
and the beauty they bring to us.

Through the summer your trees will mature
and renew our atmosphere.

Creator, renew us this summer
so that we may walk boldly into our next season.

Bless and keep Our Earth vibrant and healthy!

Amen



Prayer and Photo by Becky Sapping – St. Charles Garnier

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The D-Peeler is the voice of the Dufferin-Peel (OECTA) Elementary Unit. Members’ submissions are encouraged. Submissions must be in keeping with the aims and objectives of the Unit. Final approval of articles rests with the Editorial Board. Please direct suggestions or comments to the Unit.

UNIT SECRETARY	Diane Mulvale	secretary@elemdp.com
RECEPTIONIST	Tracey Weir	receptionist@elemdp.com

UNIT OFFICE HOURS – SUMMER HOURS

June 29th - July 17th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 July 18th - August 23rd – Unit Office Closed
 August 24th - September 4th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Regular hours resume the first day of school, September 8th, 2015
 In the event of an emergency, contact the Provincial Office (416) 925-2493.

UNIT ELECTIONS

Thank you to members who came out and voted on May 14th, 2015 for our new Unit Executive. The results are as follows:

PRESIDENT	Rose Procopio
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (2nd year of 2 year term)	Belinda Russo
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT	Mario Zarkovic
TREASURER (2nd year of 2 year term)	Lori McCannel
RECORDING SECRETARY	Lucia Sasso
COUNCILLORS:	Giovanna Chiodo Adamo Conflitti Carlo DiCarlo Sue Magditsch Sandra Vuckosich-Pennell

APPOINTED POSITIONS

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	Michael Schaus
HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR	Sue Magditsch
TEACHER WELFARE OFFICER	Lori McCannel
MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE OFFICER	Carlo DiCarlo

FYI

The Employee Assistance Program has a new telephone app

 My EAP app
 Your EFAP support on-the-go
Anytime, Anywhere

Now available in English, French and Spanish

- Book services
- Access counselling
- Discover helpful articles, videos and assessment tools

Free download available worldwide on multiple devices.





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rose Procopio

president@elemdp.com



It is hard to believe that another school year is almost ready to wrap up. With the current round of negotiations, this year has shown to be both an eventful and demanding year for everyone. With the expiration of our Collective Agreement on August 31, 2014, to a new era of Collective Bargaining, a strike rally and the first ever provincial wide strike vote, OECTA members endured many challenges and continue to do so as we prepare for the end of one school year and the beginning of a new one in September 2015.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

As you are aware, contract negotiations, at the central table continue to be turbulent. OECTA has scheduled further bargaining dates with the employer side (the government and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association) during the months of May and June. With the assistance of the Ministry of Labour, OECTA hopes to reach a fair and just negotiated settlement.

Although OECTA continues to negotiate at the Central Table, if a negotiated settlement cannot be reached, OECTA will have to apply for conciliation. Should this occur it would place OECTA members in a provincial strike position, which can result in job action.

With an overwhelming strike mandate of 94.2%, OECTA members must continue to remain strong and united. Fairness is the virtue for the month of June and OECTA members across the province are asking for a **fair and just collective agreement**.

With potential job action occurring in the coming school year, the Unit and the Provincial office will continue to keep members informed through regular communication. The Ontario government continues to pursue an "austerity agenda" by appeasing the appetite of the corporate monster. It continues to propose further cuts and concessions to public sector workers in order to solve the provincial budget deficit that the government itself has created. Teachers have taken enough concessions and it is time for the employer side to engage in meaningful negotiations.

Our local negotiation team continues to meet and has been working diligently to finalize our proposal to the Board. Please note that with the new School Boards' Collective Bargaining Act, 2014, local negotiations will not commence until discussions at the Provincial/Central Table have concluded.

If members on your staff are not currently receiving local and/or Provincial email updates, please ask them to contact the Unit office.

UNIT ELECTIONS

On Thursday May 14, 2015, Unit Elections were held at the Capitol Banquet Centre. I would like to thank everyone who put their name forward as a candidate for the Unit Executive and for their demonstrated leadership. As well, I would like to thank all of the members who attended this important General Meeting. For those departing executive members, Jeremy Cox, David Dolan, Carmela Moody, Anne Paquin and Daria Twerdochlib, the Unit wishes you all the best as you embark in a new chapter of your life whether it be retirement and/or new endeavors. Your contributions to the educational system, the Unit office and the Association have impacted the lives of many. You have played an extremely important role not only in your students' academic careers but also in their personal growth.

OECTA STAFF REP ROLE

As this year comes to a close, OECTA members are reminded that the OECTA Staff Rep is an elected position. School level elections for Staff Rep should occur **prior to the end of the school year, in June**. Information related to the roles and responsibilities of staff Rep are located in the Unit By-Laws, available for members on the local website at www.elemdp.com. Reps are provided with mileage and childcare claims to attend meetings as well as a \$30 stipend per meeting attended.

Please notify the Unit office as soon as possible with the name of the representative for your school for the 2015-2016 school year. Given the current collective bargaining situation, it is crucial that all schools/sites have an association representative in the event that we need to contact you immediately.

SCHOOL VISITS

The Unit Release Officers have completed a number of school visits this year and will continue to schedule visits to meet with members, provide information and respond to member questions. OECTA members are

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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encouraged to contact the Unit office with any work related questions or concerns. All calls are confidential.

APPRECIATION DINNER

On Thursday May 28, 2015 the Unit's Annual Appreciation dinner was held. The Unit was able to honour and show appreciation to many of our members. We had the opportunity to express our gratitude to our retiring members, our 25-year award recipients, Association Representatives, Committee Chairs and members as well as the Unit's Awards Recipients (Dufferin-Peel (OECTA) Service Award, Association Representative Award and Catholic Leadership Award). On behalf of the Unit Executive congratulations and thank you for your dedication and support to the students you work with, the colleagues

that you support and your contribution to the Catholic Education system as a whole.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

With the summer vacation upon us, I wanted to take the opportunity to wish every member a well rested, relaxing and safe summer. This school year has been a hectic one and with much uncertainty. As we prepare for the closure of this school year, I truly hope that you are able to spend time with your family and friends. May God protect and guide you and your family and keep you safe and healthy as you enjoy your time off this summer. Thank you for your support and the dedicated work you do daily in our Catholic Schools. I look forward to continue to serve as your Unit President and encourage you to call the Unit should you have questions or require assistance.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Belinda Russo

firstvp@elemdp.com



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JOINT CONFERENCE FUNDING

Conference funding is available to Elementary OECTA Members every other year for up to \$300.00 for registration fees and up to two days of Occasional Teacher coverage. Applications are available through the Board website in the fall. Be sure to apply early.

SUMMER INSTITUTE FUNDING

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of Summer Institutes in Dufferin-Peel. Once again the Unit is offering funding for permanent Teachers. Funding is available for up to \$150.00 per course, one course per applicant. Funding Applications are due June 26, 2015.

BURSARIES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS

OECTA Provincial offers a number of bursaries, fellowships and scholarships annually. Visit the Provincial website for more details. Apply on-line through the provincial website at www.oetca.on.ca.

EDUCATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD CONFERENCE

OECTA's Biennial Educating for the Common Good Conference entitled "From Charity to Change", takes place July 8 & 9, 2015 at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel. Guest speakers include Spencer West, Shannon Moroney and Mark Henick. The local Unit will be sponsoring delegates to attend this conference. Should you be interested in receiving funding please contact the Unit.

OECTA AQ COURSES

Additional Qualifications courses are open to OECTA members and non members.

Courses are online, except for the FSL Part I, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education. The fee is \$600 per AQ course and \$120 per AQ module. OECTA AQs are recognized by Qualifications Evaluations Council of Ontario (QECO) and accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 5*

YOUNG AUTHORS

Thank you to all those who submitted student work for the Young Authors Awards. Congratulations to the following schools who had local level winning submissions.

SCHOOL	TEACHER	CATEGORY
St. Timothy	Laura Giovinazzo	JK/SK Short Story
St. Richard	Suzy Tonkovic	Grades 1/2 Short Story
St. Elizabeth Seaton	Simona Littieri	Grades 3/4 Short Story
St. Hilary	Blair Tremblay	Grades 7/8 Short Story
Sr. Andre Bessette	Imma Vitale	Grades 5/6 Poem
Mary Fix	Kelly Patten	Grades 7/8 Poem
St. Andre Bessette	Chantel Hall	Grades 7/8 Nonfiction
St. Gertrude	Mattie Silva	Grades 5/6 Nonfiction French

TEACH OVERSEAS

OECTA members are invited to “exchange” positions and homes for a year with a teacher in an Australian Catholic school as part of an exchange program organized by the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation (CEEF) www.ceef.ca. Information available at www.oecta.on.ca

LOCAL SCHOOL STAFFING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LSSAC)

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT 2008-2012, ARTICLE 13.091 B

The LSSAC is a great forum to make suggestions related to scheduling at your school. The committee must meet prior to any school reorganization and shall further meet whenever changes are made to staffing, Teacher workload

distribution and instructional assignments, supervision and school day organization. This committee should have representation from every division, kindergarten, FSL, plus one member at large, the OECTA staff representative, Principal and Vice-Principal. LSSAC shall meet prior to any re-organization. Should you have questions related to LSSAC please review the Collective Agreement Article 13.091 B or contact the Unit.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT...

As the school year winds down it seems as though we are ramping up here at the Unit office. We have had a very eventful year and anticipate a busy summer as we prepare for the upcoming school year. Amidst the busyness of life, be sure to take some well-deserved time to relax and rejuvenate, spend time with family and friends and enjoy your break. I look forward to continuing to serve as First Vice-President.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lori McCannel

treasurer@elemdp.com



As Unit Treasurer, it is my responsibility to oversee the finances of the Unit, taking into account the financial needs of the Unit, and how budget decisions affect members. The Budget is presented at the monthly Executive meetings and approved by the Unit Executive. An annual Audit is required by OECTA Provincial and is presented at a General Meeting. I encourage you to consider attending the Unit Finance Committee

meetings next year to understand the Budget and to have input into how your fees are spent locally.

Please remember that any out-standing expenses for Unit Business (i.e. mileage) should be submitted to the Unit office as soon as possible.

Have a wonderful summer.

TEACHER WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lori McCannel

two@elemdp.com



As another school year draws to an end, and you say farewell to students and colleagues, take a moment to pause and reflect over the year. The challenging and often difficult work that you have performed will soon be a distant memory. But rest assured, you have made a difference in the lives that you have touched. Changes may be on the horizon as some of you switch grades or perhaps schools. The month of June with the promise of summer can often be bittersweet as we say our goodbyes, yet we dream of long, lazy summer days with no deadlines to meet.

Congratulations to those teachers, who after years dedicated to the profession, have made the choice to retire. You will have left a lasting impression on many young lives over the decades that you have devoted to your teaching career. Rest assured that your wisdom and experience will be missed as you move on to this next stage of your life.

All of us have finished the chapter of the school year but new pages await us in the days ahead. Take the time this

summer to refresh and renew yourself as you look forward to the challenges and opportunities that a new school year will bring.

SUMMER STAFF MEETINGS AND PHONE CALLS

A reminder to members that all staff meetings scheduled in the summer months are voluntary and are not mandatory. Members are encouraged to use their professional judgment in attending summer staff meetings. Any items that could potentially have an adverse effect on members who do not attend a summer meeting, for example schedules, should not be discussed.

As well, summer phone calls to parents and/or guardians are also voluntary. The Unit always encourages you to use your professional judgment when deciding as to whether you communicate with parents and/or guardians during summer vacation.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT

Carlo DiCarlo

mso@elemdp.com



MATERNITY WORKSHOPS

This year our local unit sponsored three Parental/Paternity Workshops for our members. These workshops provide detailed information to those interested in learning more about how the Maternity/Paternity and Adoption Leave processes work in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. The workshops are always well attended and the Unit looks forward to providing similar workshop opportunities for members again next year.

CALL ON US

"Service to Members" is one of the key pillars the Unit always strives to achieve in our office. No matter what your question or concern is, please feel free to call in for information. Ensuring that you have accurate information is important to the Unit Office. If you need clarification on something or are seeking advice, always know we are here for you.

With the end of the school year drawing near, I want to wish all of you a relaxing, restful, and rejuvenating summer break! I look forward to continuing to serve our membership next year.

HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR'S REPORT

Sue Magditsch

hsadvisor@elemdp.com



The school year is winding down and this often means that teachers are packing up to relocate their classroom within their present school or to a school new to them. Be careful with the weight that you put in the boxes – books pack well but a full box of books could lead to muscle strains. When packing, leave the box on a

desk, not on the floor to reduce the chance of injury from bending to pick up a filled box. If removing posters and decorations from the "old" room, use the stepladder or step stool to reach the higher items.

I wish you all a safe and restful summer.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Jeremy Cox

mao@elemdp.com



ATTENDANCE SUPPORT PROGRAM MEETINGS (ASP)

The Dufferin-Peel Attendance Support Program requires Teachers to attend a meeting upon entering each of the 6 levels of the program. Members are encouraged to contact the Unit office should they have questions related to the ASP. The Unit strongly recommends that members have representation at ASP level 3 meetings or higher. Representation can be arranged by contacting the Unit office.

ASP & PREGNANCY

Teachers who are absent due to pregnancy will have access to the pregnancy code, which is not counted toward their ASP record. For additional information related to the process for attaining access to the pregnancy code, please contact the Unit office.

ASP & DISABILITY

Teachers who have a chronic illness or disability may be eligible to have absences removed and/or not counted toward their ASP record. For additional information related to the disability code, please contact the Unit office.

LEAVES

There are a number of leave provisions available to elementary teachers. Information related to these leaves is available in the Collective Agreement, Article 7. The Unit provides support to members for all types of leaves, including but not limited to medical leave, pregnancy and parental leave, deferred salary leave, general leave and emergency leave. For additional information related to leaves, please contact the Unit office.

SHORT TERM LEAVE AND DISABILITY PLAN STLDP/SSP

Teachers have access to 11 sick days paid at 100% of salary for personal illness. Episodic absences beyond the 11 sick days are paid at 66.67 percent of salary. Should a teacher be absent for 5 consecutive days beyond the 11 sick days, Manulife will become involved for the purpose of adjudication. Pending Manulife support the member will be paid at 90% of salary with the

possibility of top-up to 100% should the teacher have access to SSP top-up days. Should a teacher be adjudicated 'non-support' by Manulife, please contact the Unit office immediately.

In addition to the 11 sick days for personal illness, a teacher has access to 5 emergency days. Emergency days include absences related to religious holiday, weather conditions, graduation, moving, writing exams and family illness. Additional information related to the use of emergency days are outlined in the Collective Agreement Article 7.019. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Unit office regarding procedures to access the use of emergency days.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Teachers are reminded to report absences correctly using the appropriate absence code(s). Under the terms of the Collective Agreement Article 7.016 teachers are responsible for booking their own absence(s) using Tracs.

RETURN TO WORK MEETINGS

Following an extended medical absence, please contact the Unit office for information about return to work plans and to arrange representation at the return to work meeting.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Should a teacher require medical accommodations in the workplace they are encouraged to contact the Unit office for assistance regarding how to proceed with having medical accommodations implemented.

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

It has been my sincere pleasure to have served the members of the Dufferin-Peel Elementary unit for the past 8 years in my role as Membership Assistance Officer. I have had the pleasure to work as a teacher and serve as a teacher advocate. I have decided to retire and as such this is my last year as your Membership Assistance Officer. I shall miss all of the daily challenges of this job, but most importantly I will miss my interactions with the members. May God bless you all and may you have a great summer with your families.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

Michael Schaus

communications@elemdp.com



First, I would like to say how honoured I am to be your new communication officer. The Unit will strive to keep you informed about important association business and information that pertains to your union.

The Dufferin-Peel (OECTA) Elementary website is undergoing a redesign, which we hope will make it more accessible. I encourage you to visit **www.elemdp.com** regularly for the latest news, events, photos, and member only information.

The Unit is also working hard to keep the email database up to date and accurate. If you have recently changed your email address, or are not receiving OECTA emails, please contact the Unit office. Making sure you can get information from the Unit office and Provincial office is very important, especially during collective bargaining. God bless, and have a relaxing summer.

OECTA COMMITTEES

2014 - 2015

AWARDS/SOCIAL

Lucia Sasso • Rose Procopio • Belinda Russo • Carlo DiCarlo • Sandra Vukosich-Pennell • Mary Matteo • Lori McCannel

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Rose Procopio • Belinda Russo • Carlo DiCarlo • Anne Paquin • Mario Zarkovic • Lori McCannel • David Dolan

COMMUNICATIONS

Micheal Schaus • Daria Twerdochlib • Rose Procopio • Jeremy Cox • Becky Sapping • Anne Paquin • Carlo DiCarlo

FINANCE

Lori McCannel • David Dolan • Rose Procopio • Lucia Sasso • Belinda Russo • Jeremy Cox • Mario Zarkovic • Sue Magditsch • Carlo DiCarlo • Anne Paquin • Carmela Boscarino

HEALTH & SAFETY

Sue Magditsch • Rose Procopio • Mario Zarkovic • Carlo DiCarlo • Belinda Russo • Sandra Vukosich-Pennell • Mary Matteo • Barb Paluch-Berthiaume • Carolyn Radman • Michelle Melo-Silva • Teresa Nicoletta

HUMAN RIGHTS/STATUS OF WOMEN

Carlo DiCarlo • Rose Procopio • Belinda Russo • Jeremy Cox

LEGISLATION

Belinda Russo • Rose Procopio • Jeremy Cox • Mario Zarkovic • Carlo DiCarlo • Charlotte Leavitt • Sue Magditsch • Lori McCannel • Margaret Reilly • Adriana D'Alimonte

NOMINATIONS

Berni Campbell • Julie Esposito • Belinda Russo • Jean Smylie • Charlotte Leavitt • Lori McCannel • Anne Paquin • Jeremy Cox • Micheal Wozniak

POLITICAL ADVISORY/CATHOLIC ADVOCACY

Mario Zarkovic • Rose Procopio • Jeremy Cox • Micheal Wozniak • Belinda Russo • Lori McCannel • Carlo DiCarlo

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/BEGINNING TEACHERS

Belinda Russo • Jeremy Cox • Rose Procopio • Michael Schaus • Carlo DiCarlo • Rachael DiCarlo • Micheal Wozniak

RESOLUTIONS

Belinda Russo • Jeremy Cox • Rose Procopio • Mario Zarkovic • Sue Magditsch • Micheal Wozniak • Margaret Reilly • Charlotte Leavitt • Carlo DiCarlo • Nicole LaFontaine

APPRECIATION DINNER 2015

25 Years Service Award



Recipients of 25 Years Service Award:

Patricia Albi, Judith Anzelc, Ruth Beck, Catherine Bennett, Kathy Bray-Valley, Elizabeth Broszczakowski, Sonia Burchill, Lori Callaway, Charles Camilleri, David Chiola-Nakai, Terryl Coombes, Lorena Curitti, Maria Priscilla D'Paiva, Teresa Discenza, Tony Discenza, Kimberly Dunne-Robbins, Sarah Fejtek, Christine Fulford, Virginia Gasior, Lisa Grabowski, Lana Grubis, Barbara Guglielmi, Suzanne Hamel, Joanne Jeffery, Nora Marchi, Mary McCann, Karen Mistruzzi Canning, Mary Ples, Marie Prajza, Nancy Ragona, Lynn Romanchych, Rosemary Romano, Annie Rukavina, Jennifer Saul, Isabel Serjeant, Sonya Szczur, Vida Tirilis, Brenda Vassallo, Elaine Walkey.



Retirees



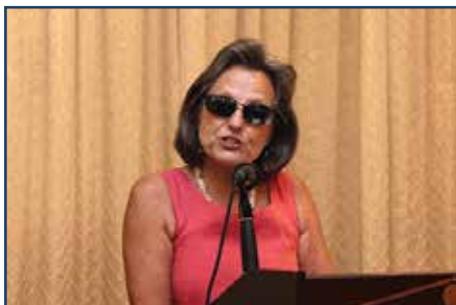
Retirees

Retirees:

Sandra Antidormi, Anna Bellini Kavals, Elizabeth Broszczakowski, Jeannette Burke, Charles Camilleri, David Chiola-Nakai, Susanne Cockburn, Elizabeth Coulson, Silvia Cover, Jeremy Cox, Lucia D'Arrioso, Maria Priscilla D'Paiva, Grace DeMola, Maria DeSouza, Mary Diamond, Cheryl Dicenso, Joan Dombrady, Laurel Foster, Richard Gough, Peter Harris, Gloria Hewitt, Celine Irving, Joanne Jeffery, Liz Kane, Linda Lencz, Mary Lewandowski, Bernadette Lewis, Liz Lightbound, Tina Macri, Ann Makarenko, Vicky Mazzucco, Sandy McDonald, Pauline Nash, Anne Paquin, Deborah Patterson, Mary Pendergast, Martin Pjetri, Halyna Polsinelli, Cherie Rahkola, Wendy Redding, Cathy Ribeiro, Claudia Richards, Elizabeth Richardson, Lynn Romanchych, Franca Santi, Judith Skikavich, Krystyna Sprentall, Ann Marie St. Martin, Jane Stephenson, Arlene Stoker, Josephine Sutton, Sonya Szczur, Tony Taylor, Vida Tirilis, John Tries, Daria Twerdochlib, Elaine Walkey, Elizabeth Zador, Francis Zanchetta.



Speakers



*Marie Prajza
25 Years Service Speaker*



*Anne Paquin
Retirees Speaker*



*Christine Minifie
Association Rep Award*

Awards



*David Dolan
Dufferin-Peel (OECTA) Service Award*



*Rosemary Keddy
Catholic Leadership Award*



OECU's SUMMER FREE LOAN

Enjoy your Summer **PAYMENT FREE...**
NO Payment Until SEPTEMBER 2015!

Whatever your needs, a Credit Union Personal Loan can help make your priorities happen.

- a special event
- travel opportunities
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FYI JOHNSON

✓ **Did you know...** when you lend your vehicle, you're also lending your insurance. That's because any claims will be made through your insurance, not the driver's. For that reason, your policy requires that the driver you're loaning the vehicle to be qualified and/or licensed to drive.

✓ **Have you ever thought about...** the items that are attached to your vehicle or that you use to operate your vehicle are covered in a loss. Other items in the car may only be covered by your home insurance.

✓ **Have you ever wondered...** 'no fault insurance' means you deal with your own insurance company for a claim, regardless of who is at fault for the accident. Fault is still assigned, even though we use the term "no-fault" insurance and the degree of fault assigned is based on fault charts or rules, to help keep decisions fair and consistent.

Compliments of Johnson Inc. We are thrilled to offer OECTA Dufferin Peel Elementary members preferred pricing and products for Educators in Ontario. Give us a call to chat about how we can help your save – 1.877.632.2965 (Group ID Code: D2) or www.johnson.ca/group