

Take ACTION



DONNA HEWITT
1st VP Political Action

Dear Members,

Can you believe that the summer is almost over ! Like many of you I too worked over the summer but was able to get a break here and there. I hope you all took time for yourselves and relaxed and recharged for the year ahead. The uncertainty of what is to come in the fall has many of us anxious and concerned for the safety of not only for ourselves but the students we serve. The government has promised to improve ventilation systems, put money towards mental health for students and money to support the gaps in learning from this pandemic. As the government changes the way they handle things at a moments notice we shall see if indeed our schools are safe for both students and staff.

I would encourage members to download the OFL's Ford-tracker from their website at : <https://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/Ford-Tracker-Updates-as-of-08-06-21-COPE.pdf>

I would also like to see any members that are available to come to a rally this Thursday August 19th 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Covid protocols in place masks and social distancing.

In March of this year the [Sheraton Hotel Ottawa terminated approximately 70 employees](#) who were on temporary leave due to the pandemic. This union representing the employees UNITE HERE Local 261 had repeatedly attempted to meet with the employer to extend the recall period. The employer refused. Numerous organizations and individuals including the Ottawa Labour Council, have expressed their disappointment and demand the employees, some with over 20 years working at the hotel, be hired back. The Ontario Federation of Labour has called for a boycott of the hotel. It is estimated that through meetings, conferences and conventions over a ten year time period unions including { OSSTF } have contributed in excess of a million dollars to the Sheraton Hotel Ottawa. With the boycott those monies come to a full stop. A [rally at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel](#) in support of the terminated employees is planned for August 19th, 2021 at 4:00pm. Safety protocols will be in place including masks and social distancing. Those participating are asked to bring their union flag. Its important the affected employees see the broad union and community support.

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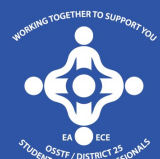
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WE ARE YOU



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Capital Pride

The Virtual Capital Pride Festival 2021 is set to take place August 22nd to August 29th. The theme for this year's Festival is "We Still Demand." The Capital Pride Annual Virtual Parade 2021 is being held on Sunday August 29th, 2021 at 2:00pm. The Ottawa Labour Council has registered for the Virtual Parade and encourages other union locals and organizations to also register. For a complete listing of Festival events please see the [Virtual Pride Guide](#).

Labour Day 2021

The annual [Ottawa Labour Day March and Picnic](#) will once again have a change to its regular format due to COVID-19. Last year's event was held entirely virtual. This year the annual March from City Hall will take place on Labour Day September 6, 2021 with some changes to the route however the picnic at McNabb Park will not be taking place due to COVID-19. Those participating in the March are asked to be at City Hall (Lisgar Street side) at 11:00am for the March that will be leaving at 12:00pm sharp. The March route will be: Lisgar to Elgin, south on Elgin to Somerset, west on Somerset to Bank, North on Bank to Laurier, East on Laurier ending at the Laurier side of City Hall. Although there will be no picnic this year the Labour Council is requesting donations. The monies received will be sent to the two food banks that are in the area of McNabb Park. Please consider making a donation. Osstf will be making a donation.

Again, I encourage those that can, to join with other OSSTF members and the ODLC and its affiliates for this show of solidarity of the labour force.

Now that an election has been called for September 20th 2021, I hope you become engaged in this democratic process by volunteering for those you want elected and those you want to see re-elected in your area. Whether it be canvassing, telephone calls, or working at their headquarters every little bit helps.

Enjoy the last few weeks of holidays and whether you are doing in person learning or virtual be safe and remember to take care of yourselves, I have no doubt that it will be a very interesting fall.

Yours in Solidarity
Donna Hewitt
VP- Political Action

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