

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

May—June 2009



President's Message

I have had the pleasure of serving our ECSSA support staff as President for the past two years. I hope that the decisions and the directions I have made supported our members, made our union stronger and a voice to be heard. I have been pondering another major decision for some time now. This letter is official notice of my resignation as President of the Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association (ECSSA), my term as President will end as of June 30, 2009. Further to our General Meeting held on May 20, 2009 the newly appointed President will be Wilma Ellenburgh. Wilma is currently located at the Service Centre as Rental/Lease Coordinator. Wilma's position as President will commence July 1, 2009 for a two year term.

I welcome Wilma as the next President and hope to make her transition into the position an easy one, as was afforded to myself when I first was elected.

I have enjoyed my position as President of our support staff union and hope to continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I will continue to sit as a member of the support staff negotiating team until we have completed contract negotiations.

I thank our support staff members for their confidence in my abilities to lead and represent them over the past two years and hope that the changes that have occurred have developed a new respect for our members with the board.

Cheryl Andrews
ECSSA President

General Meeting

Our General Meeting was held on May 20th. Over one hundred members attended and your union was able to address many current issues and elections were held.

Our president, Cheryl Andrews, asked that her name not stand for another term and Wilma Ellenburg was elected by acclamation. Lise Viel will be continuing in her role as secretary. We thank all three for their contributions to ECSSA and would like to thank Cheryl Andrews for her dedication and hard work as president.

We had the door prize draw for \$203.00 but were unable to give out the money as the member whose name was drawn was not in attendance.

Last month's cookie winners were Stephanie Rosati of Archbishop O'Leary, Betty Frebrowski of St. Gerard, Maryanne Ferbey of St. Philip, Mary Ann Ploof of St. Benedict and Nicole Culley of Sir John Thompson. See inside for details on this month's contest.

CEP - Local 52 -A

ECSSA Annual Report - 2008/2009

- Over 50 meetings were attended to represent our membership
- Over 1750 hours were worked by the Executive, Board of Directors and the Employer Liaison Officer to serve the membership
- "Traveling Union" information sessions were held for members
- New membership packages were distributed to new support staff
- ECSSA supported Technology Services with the administrative support conference
- ECSSA assisted in planning, and provided financial support to the Support Staff Conference sponsored by Edmonton Catholic Schools
- CEP sponsored and ECSSA representatives attended the conference for CEP Alberta School Support Workers locals
- Elections were held for the position of President and Secretary
- ECSSA sent a representative to a Social Justice conference
- Grievances were handled on behalf of members resulting in retroactive pay and continuation of benefits
- Approximately 20 classification review requests were reviewed by HR/ECSSA joint committee
- Over 500 calls/e-mails were received from our members to discuss work conflicts, contract interpretation, benefits inquiries, and staffing questions
- Members of your ECSSA Board of Directors fielded numerous questions and were on hand to give our members advice
- 59 sympathies and 32 get well gifts/donations and cards were sent to our members who became ill or suffered the loss of a family member
- 22 Education bursaries were provided to our members to pursue professional development activities
- The ECSSA Professional Development and Wellness Library loaned 100 resources to members and 75 new resources were purchased and added to the collection
- Donations were made to Edmonton area children's charities
- Monthly Executive and Board of Directors meetings were held to conduct the business of our Local
- The ECSSA executive met with the ECS Superintendent and Board of Trustees to share information and discuss common concerns and issues.
- Union financial commitments were attended to: preparation of monthly financial reports, payment of invoices, tracking of union dues and reports to CEP
- The ECSSA Social Committee held another successful banquet to honor retirees and long service recipients
- Monthly Liaison meetings were held with the District to address support staff concerns
- Attendance at the Positioning Decision Making Committee, Administrative Support, Budget and Health and Wellness committees.
- Newsletters were prepared and sent to all our members to keep them informed of Local news
- ECSSA sent a representative to the Alberta Federation of Labour convention
- Information and applications were sent to members interested in the CEP Scholarship Fund
- The ECSSA website was monitored and updated

Many of our Executive and Board of Directors gave of their time to participate on committees with the Division and/or other employee groups.

This is a very brief overview of the many activities ECSSA undertook on behalf of its members during this past year. Unfortunately, it does not reflect the hard work, dedication and commitment demonstrated by our Board of Directors, our Executive and our members at large. To all who have contributed to ECSSA over the past year, we extend our sincere appreciation. What makes working for ECSSA so special is being part of this amazing team. Many thanks to everyone!!!!

CEP Local 52-A Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association



June 9, 2009

MEMO TO: All Edmonton Catholic Support Staff

FROM: ECSSA Negotiating Committee

RE: **Memorandum of Agreement**

After meeting with the District on June 8, we are pleased to announce that we have a memorandum of agreement. We will hold a ratification meeting on June 22, 2009. Please note it is very important that all our members attend this meeting. At 5:00 p.m. we will present the memorandum of agreement to the membership, we will then answer any questions that the members may have. After the presentation and question period, we will hold a secret ballot vote on the proposed agreement.

Monday, June 22, 2009
St. Francis Xavier High School
9250-163 St.

5:00 p.m.

All the details of the proposed agreement will be presented at the meeting.

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

Local 52-A



Meeting Notices

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

ECSSA is a local union (Local 52-A of the [Communication Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada](#)). The membership is comprised of all Edmonton Catholic Schools support staff which includes all media resource (library) staff, teacher assistants, secretarial and clerical staff, instructors, coordinators, counselors and printing services staff.

ECSSA is directed by an Executive and Board of Directors. The Executive includes the elected positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors are members-at-large from various positions and locations throughout the school district. There is also one half-time staff position – the Employer Liaison Officer. To see a list of the the Executive and Board of Directors, please go to our [Members](#) page.

The Executive and the Board of Directors each hold a monthly [meeting](#) to conduct the business of the Local. ECSSA's By-Laws and the Board of Directors Policies and Procedures manual govern local business.

The Employer Liaison Officer works for the Local. This position reports to the Executive and Board of Directors and is responsible for many of the services provided to the membership by the Local.

Some of the membership services ECSSA offers to its' members are:

- A monthly [newsletter](#)
- Information services
- Assistance with members concerns regarding the collective agreement or workplace conflicts and grievances
- Recognition (cards/gifts) to members who are ill or bereaved
- Education bursaries to support life-long learning
- A [Professional Development and Wellness Library](#)
- An annual banquet to honor retirees and long service recipients
- Membership meetings and informational sessions
- [Collective Agreement](#) negotiations
- Liaison with other support staff local unions throughout Alberta
- Charitable donations on behalf of the membership to Edmonton area children's charities
- Representation of support staff interests on many school district committees



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.ecssa.ca

What You Have Asked:

Q As a continuous staff member who is not signed up for benefits, am I still eligible for the Health Care Spending Account?

A Yes; information on the HCSA can be found on myECSD, Human Resource Services.

Q I am curious about joining ECSSA's Board of Directors next year but don't want to commit to it full time. Can I still come out to a meeting?

A Yes! By all means come out for a visit. We welcome visitors and realize that some people want to contribute to their local and help their fellow members for a project or two but are unable to make a full "commitment." Board of Directors meeting are held the first Wednesday of every month at St. Joseph School, 5:00. Contact the ECSSA office for details.

Q Is there going to be one more cookie contest before the end of the school year?

A Yes. To enter, email: your name, school or site and five words on why you should win cookies to ecssa@shaw.ca by June 22nd. Individual entries only please.

Q I still have questions about the reassignment process or changes to my FTE for next year, what should I do?

A Contact the ECSSA office, ecssa@shaw.ca

Q What about EI for the summer?

A - Ten month employees are eligible for Employment Insurance for the summer months. The Record of Employment is filed electronically and our members do not need a copy when they apply. Our members are encouraged by Paul Gagne, "To go to the Service Canada website to set up an account right now. That way they will be ready for July. The ROE will be linked to it when we submit it to Service Canada."

- An email was sent out by Jesse Foley outlining procedures. A copy of this email has been posted on our website under "Newsletters".

- If you are denied EI, you must file an appeal.

- If you require help or need assistance please contact the ECSSA office.

**MacEwan and Edmonton Catholic Schools –
A Partnership Supporting SNTA Professional Development
Year One is a HUGE Success!!**

Some great news to share from Staff Development... As we reach the end of our first year in partnership with MacEwan's Special Needs Education Assistant Program, we are delighted with the overwhelming response from ECS' SNTAs.

In September 2008, MacEwan implemented a new way for SNTAs to work toward achieving the Special Needs Education Assistant certificate – each time an SNTA completes a district sanctioned professional development event, those hours are eligible to be used to earn credit equivalencies. Response to this opportunity has wildly exceeded both Edmonton Catholic Schools' and MacEwan's hopes for the first year of the partnership:

Number of SNTAs participating: **115**

PD hours accumulated: **1784**

Number of credit equivalencies earned: **149**

Number of eligible training events: **33**

Many thanks to all the SNTAs who have so enthusiastically embraced this opportunity!

For more information about this program and how to participate, contact Allison Betton, Staff Development, Edmonton Catholic Schools.

