



# Health & Safety

*know your rights*

## Volume 1, Issue 1

The information in this bulletin is intended for PETL members.

### REPORTING COVID-RELATED SAFETY CONCERNS

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Members are reminded of the importance of following all COVID safety measures laid out in the board's Reopening Operating Procedure, as well as any site-based school processes. Report any concerns to your principal right away. You should expect that the principal will work to resolve the issue promptly. If this does not happen, please contact your Vice-President Liaison. Issues may also be brought to the attention of your Local representatives on the Multi-workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee.

In addition to reporting concerns to your principal, any health and safety concern, including COVID-related concerns, can also be reported to your Designated Worker during their monthly inspection and we would expect to see these issues recorded on the inspection report. However, do not rely solely on the inspection report for raising concerns.

Issues should not go unresolved. You have the right to a safe work environment. If necessary, complaints can be made to the Ministry of Labour. You also have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you are considering any of these actions, please contact the local for additional information and support.

### REPORTING VIOLENT INCIDENTS

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Use of the PETL Workplace Violence Report has been discontinued. Now, when you complete the Board's Workplace Violence Incident Reporting online form, PETL will automatically receive a copy if you check the **YES** box on the form to "I consent to my report being shared with my union."

PETL encourages all members to check **YES** to having their report shared with the Local so that we may continue to gather information about the extent and nature of such incidents, in order to support members who are experiencing workplace violence. The aggregate data collected from these reports will be used to help develop strategies to improve the safety and health of our members.

If you have questions or need support regarding incidents of workplace violence, please contact your Vice-President liaison.

### CARING FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

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The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety for many. If members are feeling anxious, not sleeping, not eating, feeling overwhelmed or experiencing other symptoms that may be affecting their teaching or home life, they should contact their healthcare professionals and share how they are feeling. Members can also connect with the Local office. It is extremely important to take care of individual physical and mental health.

Additional resources:

- [PDSB Staff Well-Being](#) (for this link to work, you must first login to the Board intranet)
- [List of Mental Health Supports for Educators](#)
- [PRs Matters Bulletin 108, including Wellness During Covid-19](#)

## **YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN BOARD**

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To protect workers' rights, and their health and safety, employers are required by law to post certain documents in a conspicuous location in the workplace. ALL workers must have access to the Health and Safety Bulletin Board and its required postings.

If the health and safety bulletin board at your school is located in what is now an isolation room, closed staff room, or other area that is no longer accessible to all employees, then it must be moved to an accessible location. Please speak to your principal about having it relocated.

If there are any issues with bulletin board accessibility, please reach out to your Vice-President liaison for assistance.

## **DESIGNATED WORKER APPLICATIONS – POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE**

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The roles of Designated Worker and Alternate Worker were not filled at all schools when selections were made in June. Consequently, the application process is still open for schools with vacant positions. PETL members are encouraged to consider applying for this important, but voluntary, role.

The Board, on behalf of the Worker Members of the Multi-workplace Joint Health & Safety Committee (MJHSC) has sent an email to all workers at schools that have unfilled Designated Worker and/or Alternate Worker positions, with a link to the online application form. Interested workers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. [Click here for a list](#) of schools with Designated Worker and/or Alternate Worker vacancies.

If you have questions about the role of the Designated Worker or the application/selection process, please contact the PETL Health & Safety Advisor, Lisa Marie Gonsalves at 905-564-7233 or lisag@etfopeel.com.

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