

September 1, 2020

To: ETT Stewards
From: Jennifer Brown, President
Re: Supporting Our Stewards, Defending Our Publicly Funded Education System

Dear Stewards,

This is not the welcome back message you are accustomed to. As you know, this is not business as usual. We are amid a pandemic and are simultaneously battling against the Ford government's privatization agenda.

Now more than ever, we need to protect our students and our working conditions. Our working conditions are our students' learning conditions. The truth is that the Ford government has **failed** to provide us with a safe working environment. We can no longer solve problems that are a consequence of chronic underfunding and a poorly planned return to school. **We are educators and we will defend our public education system. We will no longer provide cover for a government that refuses to invest in our students or public education.** Instead, we will expose the Ford government's failures.

You are the eyes and ears of the union. It is vital that you ensure that health and safety protocols are clearly outlined at your school before the school year begins, and that you build power in your school by building a strong union presence and communication of accurate information.

In this package you will find:

1. A Steward checklist that helps you monitor any gaps that may exist in your school.
2. An ETT map that identifies your Ward, Executive Officer, and Health and Safety Inspector.
3. A Health and Safety flowchart that outlines procedures for reporting workplace Health and Safety concerns and a Health and Safety Rights pamphlet.
4. An ETT petition for teachers to gather signatures from parents.

5. A postcard message from the President for every member.

If you are the ETT Steward for 2020-2021 in your school, please remember to register for this calendar year at <https://ett.ca/stewards2020>.

Please, also organize an ETT Staff meeting prior to September 15, 2020, and use the following Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. If an election for Steward(s) has not already taken place, please hold elections.
3. Review the materials included in this package, highlighting Health and Safety resources and the “Asks” on the postcard message.
4. Plan a petition drive for your school for first week of student return to schools.
5. Schedule your next ETT Membership Meeting in October.

If you are no longer the Steward in your school/worksites, please give this package to the incoming ETT Steward in your school. **If your school/worksites has not elected a Steward**, please arrange an election and if you need support contact your Executive Officer.

As our members have demonstrated time and again, we can beat the Ford government and its privatization agenda when all 11,000 of us work together, and it is together that we will get through this.

Stay healthy and strong,

Jennifer Brown
ETT President