

# Summer 2022 Newsletter

OSSTF/TARA • June 3, 2022

## Executive Committee

### President

Joe Rooyakkers

### Vice-President

Elizabeth Copland

### Member Services Officer

Laleh Hatefi

### Secretary

Laurie Winn

### Treasurer

Caitlin Brookbanks

### Communications Officer

Vanessa Joy

### Representatives

- Rachel Riddle (Simcoe)
- Kyla Wastell (Vineland)
- Candy Keith (New Liskeard)
- Tom McLean (Kemptonville)
- George Woudenberg (Ridgetown)

## Annual General Meeting

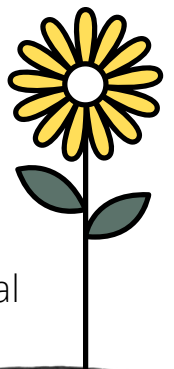
Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place, virtually, on **June 8, 2022 at 12:00 noon**, and you should have received a calendar invitation for this event. If you have not, please contact Vanessa Joy. Since this will be a virtual event, all voting will be conducted online. You must be in attendance, online, to vote.

In preparation for the meeting, we will send out an AGM package. It will consist of an Agenda, Minutes from the 2021 AGM, reports from the Officers, updated financial reports, a proposed budget for the 2022/2023 year, and any motions for proposed amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws.

This year is an election year. Danielle Watson, Election Officer, sent a call for nominations on May 9, with nominations closing on May 18 at 4:30 PM. The following on-time nominations were received:

President (1) - Joe Rooyakkers  
Treasurer (1) - Caitlin Brookbanks  
Communications Officer (1) - Vanessa Joy

A full report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.



## Ratification

I am happy to report that the tentative agreement between the University and the Union has been successfully ratified by both parties. I was pleased with the overwhelming response from our members who attended the meeting, and by those who voted in favour of the tentative agreement. In saying that, we understand that we have not perfected online meetings, and we will continue to make improvements, so that all members are able to participate.

We are currently updating our listserv to ensure that all members receive our communications. If you have not received an email message from Vanessa Joy, our Communications Officer, regarding the OSSTF/TARA ratification, please let us know as soon as possible. We want all members to be able to participate in our Annual General Meeting on June 8, 2022.

Some things to note following the ratification of our Agreement:

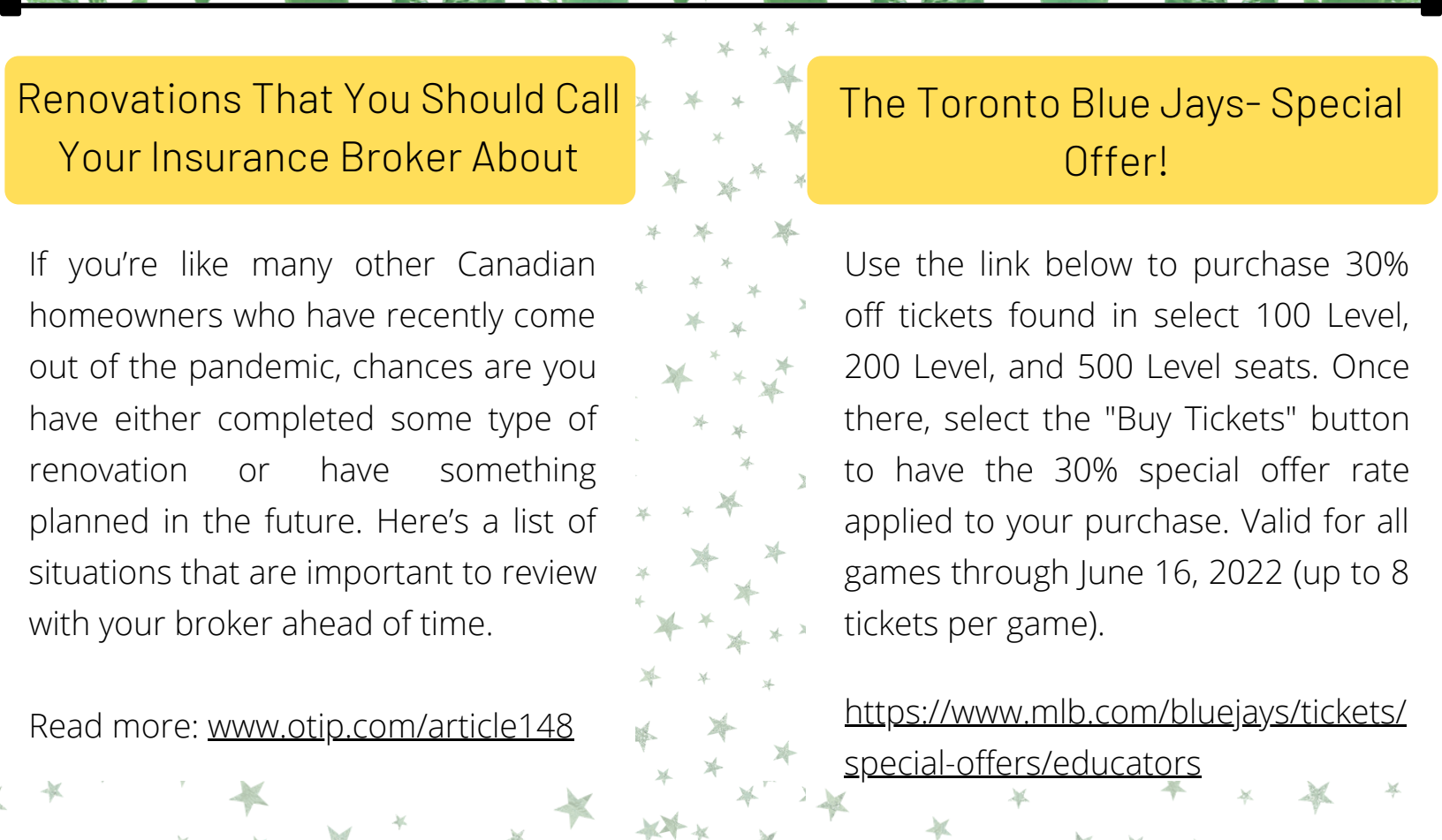
- We will work with Human Resources to process the ATB (At The Base) pay increase and retro payments for the June 23rd pay period. We are in year two of our agreement, so you should see a 2% wage increase, with a 1% retro payment back to May 1, 2021, and a 1% retro payment back to May 1, 2022. If you do not see these items on your June 23rd pay stub, please contact me.
- The University has sent an email asking you to deposit your \$250 Flexible Spending Credit increase for 2022 into one of two accounts. As per normal practice, these funds may be placed in your Health Care Spending Account (HCSA) or your Taxable Wellness Spending Account (TWSA) in \$50 increments. Should you not designate them by the deadline given, the money will be deposited in your HCSA. Your Bargaining Team is very pleased to have secured this benefit increase for our members. If you are still unaware of how to allocate your credits, or how to access them, please contact your Members Services Officer, Laleh Hatefi.
- Your Executive will be reviewing the criteria and application process for the Enrichment Fund in the coming weeks. This negotiated benefit is for Professional Development Resources (PDR). We will send the application and instructions as soon as they are available.
- Members are permitted to carry a maximum of 15 vacation days into the subsequent calendar year. However, in accordance with the Employment Standards Act (ESA), members with less than five (5) years of service must use at least ten (10) days of their vacation credits during the year in which it was earned. Members with five (5) or more years of service must use at least fifteen (15) days of vacation in the calendar year in which it was earned. If you have any questions about this, please contact me.



## 10th Anniversary Gift

As announced at a recent Members Check-in, you will receive an email message, in the coming weeks, advising you of where you can pick up your surprise Anniversary Gift! Once dates for main campus, Ridgetown, and all research stations are identified, we will let you know. The Executive are very excited to get out and see members in person again. We hope you will take this opportunity to say hello, let us know who you are and what you do, and to ask any employment-related questions.

These gift bags were put together not just to celebrate our 10-year anniversary, but to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do! OSSTF/TARA is known on campus and throughout the Federation as a hard-working, committed group, and your efforts and engagement continue to inspire us. We look forward to seeing you in the weeks to come!



### Renovations That You Should Call Your Insurance Broker About

If you're like many other Canadian homeowners who have recently come out of the pandemic, chances are you have either completed some type of renovation or have something planned in the future. Here's a list of situations that are important to review with your broker ahead of time.

Read more: [www.otip.com/article148](http://www.otip.com/article148)

### The Toronto Blue Jays- Special Offer!

Use the link below to purchase 30% off tickets found in select 100 Level, 200 Level, and 500 Level seats. Once there, select the "Buy Tickets" button to have the 30% special offer rate applied to your purchase. Valid for all games through June 16, 2022 (up to 8 tickets per game).

<https://www.mlb.com/bluejays/tickets/special-offers/educators>





## "G" Thanks!

"G" Thanks! is a recognition program to help recognize and show appreciation for colleagues at UoG. Know someone (or a team) at UoG who deserves to be recognized for something they have done? Post a note on the "G" Thanks! Kudoboard to enter them into the monthly draw!

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/appreciation-recognition/g-thanks-program>

## Not Myself Today

The University of Guelph is launching a pilot project of the Not Myself Today (NMT) initiative. NMT is an evidence-based initiative – offered by CMHA – that supports workplace mental health. It aligns with the National Standard of Psychological Health and Safety and has three main goals:

- build greater awareness of the importance of mental health in the workplace;
- reduce stigma; and
- foster a safe and supportive workplace culture.

NMT includes access to an online platform that provides resources, guidance, and support for any employee and/or NMT Ambassador on how to take evidence-informed action to support workplace psychological health and safety. NMT is intuitive with guides to facilitate action and activities including tips for embedding more mental health conversations in the workplace.


<https://www.uoguelph.ca/wellnessatwork/not-myself-today>

## Starling Minds

OSSTF is pleased to announce a new partnership with Starling Minds. Members have access to this Mental Health Fitness Program at no cost.

Starling Minds is a confidential, self-guided digital program that helps to identify the thoughts and feelings of stress, anxiety, or depression. It helps to build the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to better manage personal mental health through checkups, exercises, educational videos, guided training sessions, and a peer community.

Directions on how to access Starling Minds will be provided via email with this newsletter.



# Word Scramble

Send the completed Word Scramble to **vjoy@uoguelph.ca** by **Tuesday, June 7th**. If your answers are all correct, your name will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a **\$100 Gift Certificate** at the AGM on June 8th, 2022!

ETCJRPO  
TLRUIVA  
CATEHTIL  
MTAARU  
RNATEICO  
AYGO  
EHCERASR  
NATIAMIRTIEVDS

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Hint: Check out the  
Wellness@Work and  
Learning & Development  
June calendars!



OSSTF/TARA



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