

Continuing Education Report
November 2020

High Needs in Health and Computing Support Sectors:

The needs for teachers in the health and computing support sectors far outweigh the number of teachers we currently have on the recall list. It is predicted that all available teachers on recall will attain their full hours. The school board is recruiting and looking to hire additional teachers to fulfill the needs.

Additional Ped Days in the Youth Sector:

At the last Labour Relations meeting, I asked if the school board would consider giving their ContEd sector an extra ped day this year in order to recognize all of the extra work that online teaching entails. They did not automatically reject it, so we will give them time to reflect and get back to us.

COVID Related Issues:

- Classroom windows may be open to support air ventilation. The minimum temperature while performing light work while sitting, especially mental work, precision work, or tasks which require reading or writing is 20°C.
- Portable air filtration units that were ordered by the school board are available to the ContEd sector, in buildings that do not rely on mechanical ventilation.
- The eating areas for students comply with the physical distancing rules. If there are any concerns, please raise them with your centre director.

Online Holiday Period:

The minister has urged school boards (and service centres) to follow an “online holiday period” from December 17th, 2020 until January 10th, 2021. This has forced our centres to adapt to this directive quickly. This does NOT mean that schedules will be re-arranged, centres will proceed as planned. Both sectors will prioritize online learning during this period, however the minister’s letter seems to allow for an exception to apply to competencies in the vocational sector that cannot proceed online due to the practical component. We are awaiting clarification on whether certain specialties would be allowed in the building for competencies that cannot be taught online during that January week. PTU will keep you posted!

Submitted by
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