

WHAT IS A "STAFF REP?" (see page 20 of PRDTU Constitution)

Staff Representatives are in **KEY** leadership positions on your staffs. Your roles can be compared to that of *shop stewards* in many other unions. You are the legal representatives of the PRDTU at your school. You are the frontline representatives of our union at the level of teachers' working lives. You must be effective interpreters of their needs to the Union, and of the Union's goals to your staffs.

THE ROLE OF THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

In general terms, a staff representative should have three goals. They are:

1. To assume the authority within the school as the PRDTU/BCT representative
2. To become regarded as an effective problem-solver, advocate, and source of information.
3. To take on a leadership role within your staff.

More specifically, these three goals of the staff representative can be achieved by:

- being an effective spokesperson for your staff at PRDTU Executive Committee meetings;
- accurately and promptly communicating information from the PRDTU Executive Committee to your staff;
- participating in the business of the PRDTU Executive Committee;
- participating in a Staff Rep. training program.
- Acting as a teacher or staff advocate;
- Facilitating school-based discussions of relevant issues;
- Initiating and fostering collegial decision-making practices within the school;
- Working with other PRDTU committee reps. Within a school staff;
- Gaining experience to be better equipped to take on PRDTU Executive Committee leadership positions;
- Encouraging substitute teacher participation in PRDTU membership and school activities;
- Participating in establishing PRDTU bargaining objectives;
- Encouraging member involvement in PRDTU meetings, processes, committees and social events;

The PRDTU pays the costs of the substitute teachers needed for staff rep. training sessions. Articles A4.2.1 of our collective agreement guarantees one day's paid leave of absence for staff reps. To take part in this training. Additionally, staff reps. May want to use the paid leave provisions set out in A4.2.2, A4.3, and A4.4.

The PRDTU thanks you for taking the job on for the 2007-2008 school year. We hope that the training session is useful and that you have an interesting and rewarding year.