

AGM/AGA
2024



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Domenic Bellissimo

This award is presented to individuals who have given meritorious service to education and/or the teaching profession at the provincial/territorial, national or international level.

Nominated by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO)



Domenic Bellissimo is a passionate advocate for public education, social justice, and international solidarity at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. He began his career in children's mental health at the Toronto District School Board. Domenic joined the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) Provincial Office team in 1997 as an Organizer, and then was hired into the Communications and Political Action Department. In 2011, he became Director of Communications and Political Action Department, and after 25 years of service to OSSTF/FEESO, retired as Associate General Secretary of Professional Services. Domenic's advocacy work on behalf of teachers, education workers, and students goes beyond Ontario's borders. He helped to create

the OSSTF/FEESO Common Threads project. The international solidarity program offers members the opportunity to travel abroad and conduct research, resulting in the creation of new progressive curriculum on critical issues. The curriculum resources, which include themes such as food security, AIDS, and sweatshops, are used by thousands of educators across Ontario. His multidisciplinary work has led to the forging of numerous relationships between OSSTF/FEESO and education unions worldwide. In 2021, Domenic received the Ontario Federation of Labour's Cliff Pilkey Labour Activist Award for his outstanding contributions to the labour movement. He was presented an OSSTF/FEESO Life Membership in 2022 for his many years of service to the federation and to public education in Ontario. While retired, Domenic remains committed to advancing progressive causes, human rights, and strong public services, especially public education.

Special Recognition Award