

Professional Learning Report for May 28, 2025 DOTL Annual Meeting

As my second year of being the Professional Learning Chair draws to a close, I am taking some time to reflect. The committee consisted of myself and Umaima Motiwala when the school year began. At the first day of school BBQ, I had a few people interested in joining and managed to convince a new member to join. Trissa Masih, thank you for all of your ideas, time and energy in helping make this committee what it is. To my veteran committee members now, Umaima, I also extend a big thank you for your efforts in assisting me on this journey. Your insight and technological (survey) skills are impeccable and you are such a valued member of my team. To Connie and George, as always, I tell you almost daily, thank you for your love and continued constant support to me and the PL program. Connie, even though you have stepped back you are always offering your assistance. I truly appreciate you! George you always support my ideas and are eager to find a way to make them happen. You are a gem! We finished the PL calendar last year with 23 workshops. If all goes smoothly we will finish this year with 27 workshops! PL is alive and well in Durham for OTs. I am extremely honoured to have been able to source and arrange the workshops we have been able to provide our members this year.

The adapter give away still seems to be a big hit and is something I will continue to do going forward. I am excited to see who will be the 2 winners for the AQ giveaway later this evening!

This year we had 2 workshops that happened due to members requests. I am always willing to consider a topic for a workshop. We were fortunate to partner with the DDSB for an Acadience workshop in November and we hosted a children's mental health workshop in March. We also had the opportunity to partner with the ETFO permanent teachers' local and the DECE local for a loose parts workshop. As well, were able to host a make and take for members and we were also fortunate to host a classroom management workshop presented by the local's very own Connie Zoet. It was such an important topic with so many take aways. UFLI was another big draw this year and the always amazing and dear friend of mine Allison Theis was gracious enough to present this workshop twice

to our members and several members purchased the UFLI text using our funding program.

The Durham OT local offers funding for our members to help recoup some of the costs associated with furthering our professional learning. We offer 50% of your out of pocket expenses up to a maximum of \$300 in a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). WE fund things like, AQs and ABQs, professional books/texts, learning opportunities like Summer Academy or conferences you may attend to further your learning. They must relate to elementary teaching. You can find the criteria and the applications on the DOTL website or you can email me at pl@etfodotl.com and I can send you what you need.

I wish everyone the best as we close out this school year and my hope for everyone is a summer filled with relaxation and time spent with family and friends and soaking up the sun.

Thank you to all the DOTL members for your support and kind words for me and my team and PL through the year. Without you I would not be able to do this job that I enjoy.

Yours in Solidarity,

Heather Gillette

DOTL PL Chair