



QUARTER NOTES

CH.25 Quarter Notes: Summer 2026

www.armch25osstf.com

President's Message

"Never Again" — A Summer Reflection on Work, Safety, and Responsibility

Dear Members,

As we move through the quieter days of summer, it may seem unusual to turn our attention to workplace safety. Yet this year, there is an anniversary that reminds us why this work remains so important.

On August 10, we mark the 60th anniversary of the Heron Road Bridge collapse, one of Ottawa's worst workplace disasters. Nine construction workers lost their lives when the bridge under construction suddenly gave way in 1966. Their deaths led to stronger workplace protections and a greater understanding that safety must never be left to chance.

And yet, sixty years later, we know the work is not finished.

Each year on April 28, we observe the National Day of Mourning, remembering workers who have been killed, injured, or made ill because of their jobs. At this year's ceremony in Ottawa, Canadian Labour Congress Executive Vice-President Larry Rousseau spoke about the

growing need to recognize psychological and psycho-social hazards in the workplace. Safety today is about more than physical risks. Stress, violence, harassment, and psychological harm are real workplace concerns.

We also heard from the family of Nick Chenier, a young worker who died on the job in 2023 after contact with a high-voltage power line. His death was preventable. For his family—and for many others—the loss remains a powerful reminder that vigilance, training, and accountability continue to matter.

As educators, we understand that workplace safety takes many forms. Rising incidents of violence, increasing student needs, and growing psychological strain on teachers and education workers are all health and safety issues. They may not look like the hazards found on a construction site, but they carry very real consequences.

This message also resonates with me personally. My twins, Erin and Owen, are entering their second year of university and continue to work as head lifeguards here in Ottawa.

(Cont'd on page 2)

President's Message (cont'd from Page 1)

Like many young workers, they carry significant responsibility and rely on proper training, supervision, and safe working conditions. Seeing workplace safety through the eyes of our own children reminds us that these protections are not abstract policies—they help ensure that people return home safely at the end of each day.

For ARM members, these issues are not distant concerns. Many of the protections workers enjoy today were achieved through the advocacy and collective action of our Federation and its members. That legacy continues.

In recent months, ARM Chapter 25 members have met with elected officials to advocate for improvements in Ontario's home care system. We have called for increased publicly funded home care hours, better

working conditions, safer workloads, and stronger public accountability. This, too, is health and safety work.

As we reflect on the Heron Road tragedy sixty years later, the words "Never Again" remain as important as ever. They are more than a slogan. They are a commitment—to stronger protections, greater accountability, and workplaces where safety is never taken for granted.

The goal is not simply to remember those who have been lost. It is to ensure that the lessons learned continue to protect those who follow—and that "Never Again" remains a commitment, not merely a slogan.

In solidarity,

Les Robinson

President, ARM Chapter 25





Charlie Angus challenges members to defend public education and democracy.



Members gather at the Chapter 25 watch party to celebrate ARM's 30th Anniversary.

Charlie Angus: Ideas Matter Now, More Than Ever

On May 11, ARM celebrated its 30th anniversary. Here in Chapter 25, we held a watch party and luncheon for the event. Thank you so much to the many members who joined in our celebration. We were treated to an impassioned message by our keynote speaker, Charlie Angus, who served as the NDP Member of Parliament for Timmons-James Bay from 2004 to 2025. He continues to live a very active life as a writer, editor, broadcaster and musician. He travels the country to promote concepts around social justice and the importance of democracy. Angus gives particular focus to issues such as the fight to stop the destruction of public education, concerns around the dangers of two tiered health care and the current menace posed by a separatist agenda.

In his address, Angus emphasized the hope he finds in ordinary Canadians who are responding to the threats posed from both within and beyond our borders. He said he feels very encouraged by the "sense of place that Canadians have right now about standing up and being democratic". Angus touched on the ways in which modern technology, AI and what he terms the "digital arms race" are impacting on children and youth. He challenged us to engage in the defense of education- not only as a publicly funded institution, but also as a crucial safe space for young people. He argued that the current emphasis on the depoliticization of classrooms is actually more deeply politicizing them, and leaving students more vulnerable. It is essential that we

continue to stand up in defense of human rights, recognizing the value of knowledge, ideas and civil debate. He described the "war that the far right have launched on our democracies, on our institutions, on our sense of media" as "a war on reality itself" and said that we need to be "militant in creating the sense of school as a safe space to be able to talk and think and make sense of the chaos in the world around us". He recognized the special role that retired teachers and Education Workers can play in providing support and strength to those currently working in schools. Charlie Angus closed on an optimistic note, describing the enormous transformation that he's witnessed in Canada, including the "incredible act of resistance from one end of the country to the

other" in response to Trump threats. He said that we're seeing in many ways the pushback against anti-democratic values in Canada - a sense that we are a stronger nation by being democratic. "We have to be vigilant against the ways in which democracy gets chipped away from within. This is why we can't allow things like our public institutions to be undermined."

His final message was both simple and powerful:

"Ideas matter now, more than ever".



ARM Chapter 25 Events 2026–2027

Stay Connected!

As summer turns to fall, we invite members to join us for opportunities to reconnect, travel, and enjoy the company of fellow retirees. Our calendar of events continues to evolve as new dates and activities are confirmed.

Please visit the **ARM Chapter 25 website** regularly for the latest updates, registration details, and additional opportunities to participate: www.armch25osstf.com 👉 www.armch25osstf.com/upcoming-events

Upcoming Events

📅 September 3, 2026 – Chapter 25 Breakfast Gatherings

Join fellow ARM members for a relaxed morning of good food and conversation.

Kingston – Morrison's Rest.
318 King Street East, Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

East Ottawa – Chances R East
540 Montréal Road, Ottawa, ON K1K 4R4

West Ottawa – Chances R West
1365 Woodroffe Avenue, Nepean, ON K2G 1V7

- ✓ Complimentary breakfast
- ✓ Guests welcome
- ✓ Connect with fellow retirees

👉 Watch your email and visit our website for registration details.

📅 September 7, 2026 – Ottawa - District Labour Day March and Picnic

Join fellow retirees, union members, families, and community allies as we celebrate the contributions of working people and advocate for strong public services and workers' rights.

- ✓ Labour Day March through downtown Ottawa
- ✓ Family-friendly picnic and entertainment
- ✓ Support workers and retirees

👉 Watch your email and visit our website for details.

📅 September 10, 2026 – ARM Chapter 25 Charity Golf Tournament and Dinner

Join us for a day of golf, friendship, and fun at Manderley on the Green Golf Club.

- ✓ Open to golfers of all skill levels
- ✓ Dinner and prizes included
- ✓ Partners and friends welcome
- ✓ Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner

👉 Registration information available at:
www.armch25osstf.com/upcoming-events

📅 September 16–18, 2026 – Stratford & St. Jacobs Excursion

Travel with fellow ARM members on our three-day excursion to Stratford and St. Jacobs.

Highlights include:

- ✓ Guys and Dolls at the Stratford Festival
- ✓ Optional performance of The Tempest
- ✓ St. Jacobs Farmers' Market and Village
- ✓ Deluxe motor coach transportation
- ✓ Two nights' accommodation

ARM Chapter 25 members receive a subsidy toward the cost of the trip.

👉 For itinerary details and registration:

www.armch25osstf.com/upcoming-events

📅 October 2026 – Regional Breakfast Gatherings

Additional regional breakfast gatherings are being planned across Chapter 25.

- ✓ Complimentary breakfast — no cost to attend
- ✓ Partners and guests welcome
- ✓ Connect with retired colleagues in your area

📌 Dates, times, and locations to be announced.

👉 Please visit our website regularly for updates:

www.armch25osstf.com/upcoming-events

Below, 'Breakfast with Jeff' in Pembroke...



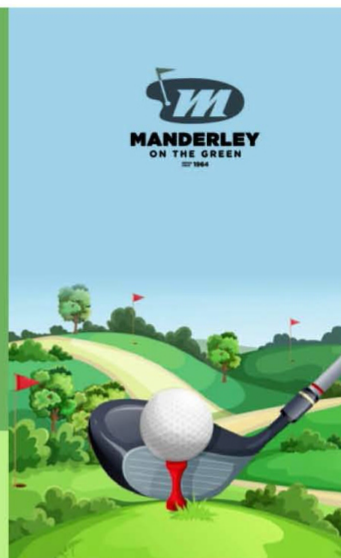
Thursday, September 10, 2026
2:00 PM

OSSTF Chapter 25 ARM

9-Hole Charity Golf Tournament

Manderley Golf And Country Club

5920 Prince Of Wales Drive, North Gower K0A 2T0



This is a fun best-ball tournament. Experience and playing level is absolutely not important. Come out to enjoy the afternoon, meet some wonderful folks and have a good meal.

Sign up as a single, double, or any number and leave the rest to us. We hope you will be able to join us!

All fees
collected will
be donated to
charity!

Sign up

First name

Last name

Phone number

Email

☐ Golf and Dinner \$35 ☐ Golf only \$20 ☐ Carts \$12* ☐ Dinner only (5:00 pm) \$20

*Carts \$12 per person payable added to your registration fee.

To add additional people, please include their information on a separate page

Two ways to register

1. Mail the completed form and a cheque made payable to "OSSTF Chapter 25 ARM" to Clare O'Connell Noon at 4009 Rideau Valley Drive Manotick, Ontario K4M 0T8.

OR

2. Email the form and make an eTransfer to: chap2507@gmail.com

Questions? Please contact organizer Terry Gamble: gambleterry@gmail.com

Your guide to summer road trip travel safety



ARM Chapter 25 Partner Message

There's a special kind of magic to hitting the open road in the summer: the sun is shining, your favourite playlist is playing, and endless possibilities lie ahead. Whether you're escaping to cottage country, visiting loved ones, or discovering hidden gems across Canada, road trips are about adventure and making memories at your own pace. Before you set out, a little preparation goes a long way. By checking your vehicle and ensuring you're properly covered, you'll spend less time worrying and more time enjoying every mile.

Read more at www.otip.com/article207. #OTIPUpdate

Celebrate the end of the school year with a bonus offer!

For the month of **June**, receive a **\$30 gift card** of your choice when you get a car, home or leisure insurance quote. [Get a quote](#) or call 1-888-892-4935 and mention this offer!

How to financially prepare for summer and beyond with peace of mind



Educators
FINANCIAL GROUP

Life has a way of throwing curveballs when we least expect them. Whether it's a sudden job disruption or an emergency expense, being prepared is the difference between a minor speed bump and a major stressor. The secret to truly enjoying your time off? The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're ready for whatever happens next.

Start building your financial safety net today with these 3 steps:

1. **Read our guide.** Future-proof your finances with these tips on preparing for life's unexpected moments: <https://bit.ly/4wXtKS2>.
2. **Seek out professional advice.** Book a complimentary consultation with an Educators financial advisor who understands the unique needs of the education community. Get a personalized plan tailored to your specific goals: <https://bit.ly/49Thfga>.
3. **Stay informed (and WIN).** Level up your financial literacy this summer. Subscribe to our eNewsletter for expert tips delivered straight to your inbox, **plus a chance to win 1 of 5 \$50 gift cards:** <https://bit.ly/4dTPmpA>.

Brought to you by Educators Financial Group. Bringing financial peace of mind to education members and their families for over 50 years. Book your complimentary consultation today: <https://bit.ly/49Thfga>.