

...and still we rise 2010

Working Together to Create Healthy Schools and Communities

ETFO's tenth annual provincial leadership conference for women was held from February 10 to 12, 2010 at the Fairmont Toronto Royal York Hotel. Over 400 women attended the conference which featured dynamic plenary speakers, academic presentations, and curriculum content related to various strands of the conference theme. ETFO Status of Women Chairs and the current Leaders for Tomorrow participants were among the members who attended.

Plenary Speakers

Author and motivational speaker, Linda Edgecombe inspired participants to use their stories to broaden their understanding of one another and to shift their perspectives in interpreting everyday events and moving towards their goals.

Meg Soper used comedy, her experience in the field of nursing, and her knowledge about teaching to challenge participants to look after themselves first in order to better support and assist families, colleagues, and children in their care.

Sally Armstrong, journalist and author, shared stories about her work with women in countries at war and their courageous commitments to challenge their oppressors and rebuild their communities.

Jane Bluestein, author and scholar, shared ten practical strategies that can assist teachers and educational workers in creating emotionally safe schools. She urged participants to use boundaries, consistency, and recognition in their work with children.

Small and Large Group Sessions

Over thirty elective sessions were held. Topics included, mental health, Aboriginal issues, social justice curriculum, and union activism. Participants selected three sessions over the three days. Workshop presenters were ETFO members, union leaders, and women from our communities.

Special Presentation

Evelyne Datl, Liberty Silver, and the Hothouse Band prepared a special musical presentation just for the conference. Their songs and music re-energized the audience.