Bargaining Bulletin

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Education Worker Central Bargaining Table Update July 7, 2023

On July 7, OSSTF/FEESO met with representatives from the government and the Council of Trustees' Associations (CTA) at the Education Worker central bargaining table.

OSSTF/FEESO again sought to address issues important for improving the learning conditions of students and the working conditions of our Members, but little response was given from the government or employer representatives at this time.

Staffing and retention remains a priority issue for OSSTF/FEESO. Numerous stories have made headlines over the past few weeks as school boards share their letters to the Ministry of Education expressing concerns about the government's ongoing underfunding of public education. Because this government is shortchanging public education, school boards across the province are finding it increasingly difficult to properly staff and retain education professionals. Boards are being forced to make cuts to the supports and programs being offered in Ontario's schools.

The persistently high rate of inflation is also worsening these staffing issues, and OSSTF/FEESO Education Worker Members are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to live in the communities in which they work.

On July 20th, it will have been a year since bargaining began, and unfortunately, very little progress has been made. We remain committed to securing a fair collective agreement that addresses our Members' needs and is responsive to current economic realities.

Future Bargaining Dates

OSSTF/FEESO has confirmed one additional central bargaining date with the government:

August 17 – Education Worker

You can find general bargaining information on the <u>Bargaining 101 page</u> on the OSSTF/FEESO Update webpage as well as an <u>article on logging into myOSSTF</u> and ensuring your contact details are up to date.

The Bargaining Bulletins are now available on the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF/FEESO website. Please check *myOSSTF* for updates.

