

Education Worker and Teacher/Occasional Teacher Bargaining Update

On August 25, OSSTF/FEESO local Presidents and Chief Negotiators voted to recommend to Members a proposal that provides a pathway to resolve outstanding bargaining issues. This pathway can include the use of binding interest arbitration for any unresolved bargaining issues at the local and/or central levels for those employed by school boards across the province. OSSTF/FEESO members under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act* will participate in a province-wide online vote conducted between September 8 and 27, 2023.

The Provincial Executive, along with local Presidents and Chief Negotiators, believe this proposal offers the best opportunity to deliver the best agreement for Members. As such, we are seeking the support of the membership.

The proposed process, tentatively agreed to by the government and OSSTF/FEESO, includes the following components:

1. Determination of a remedy for Bill 124
2. A set period of time for the continuation of both local and central bargaining
3. An agreed-upon interest arbitration process to resolve any central or local issues still in dispute following the end of bargaining
4. An agreement that there will be no strikes or lockouts during this round of bargaining.

It is important that the membership has the opportunity to review and seek clarification about the proposal before they vote on the proposal. To facilitate this, four virtual provincial town hall meetings as well as in-person local meetings will be held over the month of September. At these meetings, Members will be able to speak with representatives from the Provincial Executive and Provincial Office staff. More information on dates and logistics for these meetings will be shared in the coming weeks.

Beginning on September 8, all Members of OSSTF/FEESO covered by the *School Board Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA)* will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal. Further details about voting will be shared at the upcoming meetings and Member communications.

For over five years, this government has systemically and deliberately shortchanged Ontario's schools and students. Ontario's future depends on appropriately funding Ontario's world-renowned public-sector education system. Yet, for over 13 months of bargaining, the Ford government has refused to engage meaningfully at the central table, and many local tables have faced similar frustrations in bargaining with their local school boards.

We believe the proposed process will bring about the best outcome for all OSSTF/FEESO members working under the SBCBA by ensuring that the significant concerns of workers around compensation and working conditions will be heard, either by the Ford government or by a neutral third-party arbitrator.

Members need to ensure they can log into the Members-Only section of the Provincial Website so that they can access the online voting tool. In addition, Members should verify that their personal email address is up to date in our database so that they can receive information about provincial negotiations. There is an [article on logging into myOSSTF](#) and ensuring their contact details are up to date. Additional information on accessing the Members-Only section of the website can be found on the [Member Login page](#). More information about the proposal as well as membership meetings and voting are available in the attached FAQ sheet.

Future Bargaining Dates

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

September 7 – Teacher/Occasional Teacher
September 11 – Education Worker
September 12 – Teacher/Occasional Teacher
September 26 – Education Worker
September 29 – Teacher/Occasional Teacher

You can find general bargaining information on the [Bargaining 101 page](#) on the OSSTF/FEESO *Update* webpage as well as an [article on logging into myOSSTF](#) 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.