

OSBCC Resolution – Defending Public Education and Free Collective Bargaining

CUPE (on behalf of locals) will:

1. Launch legal proceedings including but not limited to challenging Bill 115's constitutionality.
2. Launch a formal complaint with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

CUPE (working with locals) will:

3. Activate the Action Plan (attached) to mobilize the membership and reach out to communities in order to put pressure on the government to repeal Bill 115, allow free collective bargaining and fight back against further attacks on workers' rights.
4. Continue, through the OSBCC, to defend public education and fight cuts to services and jobs.
5. Continue to coordinate bargaining through the OSBCC Bargaining Committee in order to achieve a CUPE solution that provides the best possible outcome for our members.
6. Commence province wide strike votes if government moves to exercise the powers to interfere in free collective bargaining with any CUPE School Board local.
7. Fold these actions into a larger multi-sector province wide plan to protect good jobs, public services and bargaining rights.
8. Access strike aversion funds in accordance with the CUPE National Constitution.

CUPE School Board Locals will:

9. Compile and make available their membership home phone numbers which shall only be used in order to facilitate Town Hall Conference Calls of the entire membership in the School Board Sector.
10. Each local will assign one representative per bargaining unit to assist in coordinating actions and be in touch at least once per week with the OSBCC Bargaining support representative(s) in their area. The Bargaining support representative(s) will keep CUPE Ontario informed of actions taking place in their areas.
11. Engage directly with their members to provide up to date information and mobilize the membership within the workplace, in outreach to our communities and in provincial strategies (see attached Action Plan)

Because:

- On September 11, 2012 the McGuinty Liberal government passed Bill 115, entitled the “Putting Students First Act,” an unprecedented attack on free collective bargaining and on the rights of all Ontarians as protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Bill 115 seeks to impose an agreement that was reached between OECTA and the government on CUPE members. One size does not fit all. We need an agreement that recognizes and respects the value of the work education support workers do in supporting student success.
- Bill 115 gives the Minister of Education and Cabinet unprecedented powers over labour relations in Ontario, effectively removing the rules that have been in place since Privy Council Order 1003 (PC 1003) which established the rules for collective bargaining on February 17, 1944.
- The Premier has announced new legislation is forthcoming to prevent free collective bargaining in the Broader Public Sector (BPS).
- Government initiatives are negatively impacting education and will hurt students, families and communities.
- CUPE members through their locals are the ultimate decision makers related to initiatives and their engagement to protect public services and defend free collective bargaining rights.

Moved by: Don Bryans L 218

Seconded by: Gordon McIlwain L 218

CARRIED

September 23, 2012