

## Final stretch before a full PDT agreement

The next couple of months will be crucial to make sure that the Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) agreement and local bargaining issues are dealt with in a timely manner. We remain committed to keeping you updated on a regular basis. Communication is critical as we move forward together in this bargaining process.

### Update on bargaining and ratification process

Last May, a tentative settlement was reached between the OSBCC bargaining committee and representatives of the School Boards. If you have not yet been informed on the details of this agreement, please speak with your local executive. Watch also for a newsletter in the next few days in which we will summarize the details of the settlement and the impact on your working conditions.

Since this tentative settlement was reached, locals have started to bring the PDT package to their membership in order to get their endorsement. So far, we have heard from about 90% of the locals. All have been able to get strong support from membership for the PDT, with the bargaining plan and the coordinated bargaining proposals.

In order to get bargaining under way, all locals were asked to obtain dates to meet with their Employer. Larger locals such as 4400, 5555, 4222 are now at the table. In order to be on pace with the rest of the province, all locals should now have at least secured some initial bargaining dates and should have a clear plan as to how they will approach local issues.

We are working now on common language which can be used by locals to integrate the PDT into the Collective Agreement. At this time, locals should be bargaining local language and common proposals. No PDT bargaining should commence until after the next bargaining conference in mid-September.

For the PDT to be ratified by November 30<sup>th</sup>, locals should aim to finish bargaining by the end of October and, if possible, complete the ratification process by the middle of November. This will allow time to focus the bargaining support team on locals which are having difficulty concluding the process.

## **PDT Bargaining meeting in Toronto, September 20-21**

The next bargaining conference will be held in Toronto on September 20 and 21. It is important that every CUPE school board local send their representatives, since this will be a decisive meeting leading to the final weeks of the PDT bargaining process. You still have time to register by going to the CUPE Ontario website: [www.cupe.on.ca](http://www.cupe.on.ca)

Through debates and discussions, we hope this meeting will help us to get a better feel as to where everyone is at in the local bargaining process and how major issues are being dealt with at the local level. We also need to identify strategies to help us be successful on common language proposals and how to move forward with the PDT package. This will be the kickoff for every local to fully add the PDT to their collective agreement.

At the conference, a guest speaker from the Ministry of Education, will explain the funding of the PDT and talk about ways for us to monitor the actual use of these funds by the Boards.

Finally, the conference will be the occasion to support locals who are fighting contracting out issues and privatization, a challenge that too many of us are facing at this time.

### **Pre-Conference Survey**

You should have received a survey asking for an update on your bargaining status. It is designed to identify how close each local is to reaching an agreement. We would appreciate it if you could please fill out this survey and send it back to us before September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Responses will be part of the conference kit and will help us preparing for the final round of this PDT bargaining process. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Others conferences to come**

October 1<sup>st</sup> : CUPE Ontario meeting to discuss the implementation of full day kindergarten in Ontario and its impact on the municipal, social services and education sectors. It is important that school board workers attend this meeting. We need to stand together with a common position. We have EAs and other specialists that work in kindergartens and we need to prepare for this new reality.

November 21, 22, 23: Skilled Trades Conference

March 2-4, 2009: National Education Workers meeting

TEL 416.292.3999 FAX 416.292.2839 EMAIL [gr8in08@cupe.ca](mailto:gr8in08@cupe.ca) [www.cupe.ca](http://www.cupe.ca)



Information: Contact your local CUPE executive, check out the CUPE Ontario website <http://www.cupe.on.ca/>, or join the CUPE school boards Listserv. If you wish to receive this newsletter by fax please send your fax number.

In solidarity,

Your bargaining committee:

Terri Preston	OSBCC Chair
Susan Hanson	OSBCC
Marc Boisvert	OSBCC
Frank Ventresca	OSBCC
John Weatherup	Local 4400
Sid Ryan	CUPE Ontario president
Antoni Shelton	CUPE Ontario Division
Linda Thurston-Neeley	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Atkinson	CUPE Assistant Director
André Lamoureux	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Blakeley	CUPE School Boards Coordinator
Jean-Marc Bezaire	French Language Boards Coordinator
Paul O'Donnell	CUPE Research
Elizabeth Nurse	CUPE Legal
Luc Tittley	CUPE Communications

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