



TOGETHER, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

OSBCC Mobilization Update 2012

Issue 8

October 25, 2012

Sisters and Brothers:

The OSBCC Bargaining Support Committee was elected to support the OSBCC Bargaining Committee in carrying out membership mobilization work for CUPE's 55,000 school board support workers across the province.

As you may have heard, on October 15, 2012, Dalton McGuinty stepped down as Premier of Ontario, leaving behind a province in crisis. Make no mistake, Bill 115 – the *Putting Students First Act* – is still in full effect and free collective bargaining remains under attack. It is important we continue to ramp up efforts in our fight back against the government's austerity agenda and your OSBCC Bargaining Support Committee has been hard at work implementing the OSBCC Action Plan as adopted at our Leadership Meeting on September 23.

Educating the membership

An all-locals school board sector Town Hall conference call was held Sunday, October 21 at 7 p.m. to update the membership and answer questions. Over 5,000 members participated on the call and we are thrilled with the turnout. Thank you to local presidents for providing personal telephone numbers in order to allow us to reach out to as many members as possible.

Most locals have now set up phone trees in order to be able to communicate rapidly and effectively with their members. Membership meetings have been held or are underway in most regions and we encourage you to continue to get together to inform members, share ideas and address concerns.

Building solidarity

We have been hearing that many locals are wearing black on Wednesdays and increasing the CUPE profile in the workplace with items they have purchased – we encourage as many locals as possible to do the same!

Many areas have been in contact with local teacher union leadership in order to coordinate actions. We are pleased to know that many of you have already been in touch with your area's CUPE District Council and/or Labour Councils. Making connections and coordinating actions is key to carrying out this Action Plan and the more supporters you reach out to, the stronger we will be.



Connecting with the community

We encourage you to keep making presentations to groups such as community organizations, district/labour councils, parent councils, clubs, etc. Area 6 has put together a PowerPoint presentation to help facilitate these meetings and educate on the impact of Bill 115 on school board support workers. Contact your OSBCC Bargaining Support Area Representative for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for your local to use as a sample.

Ideas have been shared on how to deal with obstacles such as attending parent council meetings. For example, leafleting outside a parent council meeting can be an effective way to get information out to parents and the community.

We have seen some great Letters to the Editor in response to articles in various papers. These help raise the profile of school board support workers and we encourage you to keep sending those in to highlight the work we do in our schools and to remind the public of the impact of Bill 115 on our members. You can find Letters to the Editor that were featured in local newspapers in the Media section of the school boards campaign page at cupe.on.ca/supportededucation

Lobbying

Meetings with MPPs have been scheduled across the province and we are looking forward to getting some feedback on their progress. Please contact campaign@cupe.on.ca when scheduling meetings with your MPPs so we can help you prepare and keep track of which MPPs are getting requests. An MPP Lobby Kit and speaking points are available at cupe.on.ca/supportededucation to help guide you through those meetings.



Rallies have also been taking place at constituency offices and it is clear we have been making an impact. Again, please contact campaign@cupe.on.ca to let us know of any events taking place in your area so we can help get more supporters out to these rallies. Some areas have been using creative ways to get people out to rallies such as holding a meeting at a nearby restaurant or pub after the event and offering to chip in for food – at the same time, you can use the opportunity to have a discussion on the event you just attended. If you are asked to speak at these events, remember that you can visit cupe.on.ca/supportededucation and get speaking notes for rallies to help you with your speech. Turnout at rallies in London, Oakville and Ottawa was amazing – congratulations to all who attended and keep up the good work!

CUPE Ontario will be sending an updated list of Trustees by school board and region to OSBCC Bargaining Support Area Reps in order to facilitate the scheduling of meetings to do some more lobbying. Contact your OSBCC Bargaining Support Area Rep if you would like to know who your Trustee is and how to get in touch with them.

Mobilize, mobilize, mobilize!

Participation in Mobilizing Mondays has been great and we urge you to keep doing the two-minute and five-minute actions on a weekly basis – if you can, get as many of your contacts to do the same! Don't forget to visit the CUPE Ontario Facebook page and share Mobilizing Mondays with your friends and family.

Feedback on the **cupe.on.ca/supportededucation** webpage has been fantastic – you can find tools to help you with things like Letters to the Editor, speaking notes for those attending rallies, various lobby kits, and a community outreach sample letter, to name a few. Please contact campaign@cupe.on.ca if you have any questions or require assistance with anything relating to the OSBCC Action Plan. For any pictures or videos you may have of events, please forward them to that email as well.

Members are invited to contact their area OSBCC Bargaining Support Representative to share creative mobilization initiatives that are underway in their region. Please visit **cupe.on.ca/supportededucation** for more information on Bill 115 and to find out how you can get involved in defending public education and free collective bargaining.

We count on you to maintain clear and consistent messaging to our members. Please distribute our Bargaining and Mobilization Updates to your members and post them at your workplace as soon as they are received. Information is power and a well-informed membership is the key to our success at the bargaining table.

In solidarity,

Your OSBCC Bargaining Committee