



# Bargaining GR8 in `08

Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee  
Provincial Discussion Table  
February 25, 2008

The CUPE Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) Bargaining Team has been meeting as a committee and with Ministry of Education and School Board representatives. This report provides members with a view of where things sit, currently. Watch for regular news updates from the CUPE PDT Bargaining Team. We are currently putting in place a communication strategy to keep you informed through news bulletins on the websites and at your local level. Be on the lookout.

## First 2008 meeting

The parties first met on January 28, 2008, in Toronto. Initially the Ministry of Education put forward their negotiation dates. Some dates were only half days and we felt it was neither effective nor fair for committee members to travel for a half-day meeting.

Where the Ministry had recommended a number of half days initially we were able to successfully recommend most of those become full negotiating days.

The parties confirmed the following calendar:

February: 19 and 22 (completed)  
March: 3 and 18  
April: 3, 15 and 29  
May: 9 and 26

## Preliminary Issues Identified

CUPE outlined our issues as follows:

- Violence in the workplace
- Professional development / Training for all staff
- 7 hour work day for Educational Assistants
- Adequate staff levels (including square footage, etc.)
- Supervision of students for all classifications
- General Interest and other Instructor issues
- Roles and responsibilities of Educational Assistants
- Wages and benefits for all classifications

The CUPE PDT Bargaining Team also indicated that some issues might require legislative and regulatory amendments.

### **The Boards' Position:**

The Employer representatives indicated that their current funding deficits would need to be addressed before they could consider improvements. They emphasised that any improvements would require appropriate funding from the government.

The Ministry of Education indicated that the high costs of benefit packages were causing some serious problems for Boards of Education and they were looking to see our reaction to this.

This bulletin represents the first in a regular series of bulletins, newsletters and communications that CUPE school board workers will be receiving throughout the bargaining process.

**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:

Frank Ventresca

Susan Hanson

Marc Boisvert

John Weatherup

Linda Thurston-Neeley

Brian Atkinson

Andre Lamoureux

Brian Blakeley

Paul O'Donnell

Elizabeth Nurse

Luc Tittley

Antoni Shelton

OSBCC Chair

OSBCC

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CUPE Local 4400

CUPE Assistant Director

CUPE Assistant Director

CUPE Assistant Director

CUPE School Boards Coordinator

CUPE Research

CUPE Legal

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