



CUPE Ontario steps up Fair Funding Campaign over summer months to address new cuts announced by Boards

CUPE Ontario has been working with the Ontario School Board Coordinating Committee and with locals that have been in bargaining, to try and minimize negative impacts on jobs arising from the faulty funding formula.

School board budgets for the 2007-08 year have been submitted by trustees to meet the June provincial deadline, and it is very evident that the Liberals' failure to fix funding for school boards has created a job crisis right across the province.

A preliminary analysis of 45 Ontario school board budgets by CUPE Ontario indicates that over 60 percent of school boards will cut jobs. That's at least 575 support staff positions. More are expected as reports are received from remaining boards. We cannot, and will not, stand by as our locals across the province suffer the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Today, officers of CUPE Ontario had an emergency call with leadership in the school board sector and senior staff. There was agreement that we need to take the Fair Funding Campaign into higher gear and campaign now for the school boards deeply affected by these new cuts.

We will hold an emergency meeting next Thursday July 19 with members of OSBCC to:

- Highlight those boards and locals where we are losing jobs
- Work with those locals to run highly public advertising campaigns this summer to embarrass the Liberals and protect workers and their jobs
- Capitalize on the election run-up now. We cannot afford to wait until fall because that will be too late to continue building enough pressure for change.

We need everyone in the school board sector to pull together and make these latest cuts an election issue with friends, colleagues and election candidates—whether it's at home or at the cottage.

We'll keep you up-to-date and informed on what you can do following next week's meeting.

On Thursday July 12th, CUPE Ontario will kick-off the next phase of the Fair Funding Campaign with a media conference at Queen's Park. At that event, we will release the results of our analysis of school board budgets and call on the Liberals to stop fuelling a job crisis in Ontario and fix the funding formula.

Sid Ryan
President,

Fred Hahn
Secretary Treasurer

