

December 11, 2007



## SPECIAL UPDATE for Ontario CUPE School Board Locals Assigned CUPE National Staff



---

### School board sector member mobilizing, bargaining, strikes yield results CUPE emergency meeting set for early January 2008

Mobilizing, province-wide coordinated bargaining strategies, and several key strikes by CUPE's Ontario school board sector members over the past year has yielded exciting results. CUPE school board locals now have a unique opportunity through a sector-wide provincial process to put negotiations for fair funding for school support services squarely on the table with the Ontario government.

The province has agreed to facilitate a negotiations process between CUPE and school employers. This is a major step forward for the sector.

We now have a formal process to negotiate and make gains on the key issues identified by CUPE school board sector members, such as: a 7-hour day for educational assistants (EAs), adequate staffing levels, square footage, professional development, violence, supervision and benefits.

This is the outcome of the direction given by CUPE school board sector members to CUPE Ontario, the Ontario School Board Workers Coordinating Committee (OSBCC), and CUPE National staff to explore opportunities to coordinate bargaining for the sector and move forward on achieving fairer funding for school support services.

The clear message from the Ontario government is that it wants to move quickly to get the negotiations process off the ground. The government has asked that CUPE be ready to begin talks on January 21, 2008. The province is also facilitating a similar negotiations process with teachers and other support workers represented by (OSSTF). Therefore, CUPE participation in these negotiations is essential to ensure that the provincial government recognizes the vital contribution support workers make to quality schools by adequately funding education support services.

**An emergency meeting for all Ontario school board locals is being scheduled for January 2008 (meeting date and location to be announced).**

Details of the sector-wide provincial bargaining process will be provided at the emergency meeting, and all school board locals, including those not affiliated to CUPE Ontario, are strongly encouraged to attend. Input and direction from all locals is important. We are asking that local union representatives come to the meeting with a mandate from their members to participate in these historic negotiations.

Additional information about the emergency meeting and a Question & Answer fact sheet about the facilitated negotiations process and discussions with the province will be mailed out to all Ontario CUPE school board locals and assigned CUPE National representatives shortly.

**All parts of CUPE are working together to ensure these significant negotiations succeed.**

Again, we encourage all CUPE school board locals and assigned CUPE National staff to support the sector-wide provincial bargaining process, and to attend the emergency meeting in January 2008.

In solidarity,

Sid Ryan, President, CUPE Ontario

Roger D. Neeley, Ontario Regional Director

Frank Ventresca, Chair, OSBCC