



TOGETHER, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

OSBCC Bargaining Update 2012

Issue 9

May 8, 2012

Sisters and Brothers,

The OSBCC Bargaining Committee was elected to represent over 50,000 CUPE school board workers at the Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) with the school board associations and the province of Ontario.

We met on May 1 and finalized the coordinated language package. At our February conference, delegates mandated the committee to develop standard language to deal with the following issues:

- Hours of work
- Seniority
- Union leave
- Car allowance
- Pay equity maintenance
- Information from employer

The coordinated language document has been sent out for translation and will be forwarded to locals and staff reps no later than Wednesday, May 8. Please review the language and notes carefully and ensure these issues are addressed in your local bargaining proposals.

We met with the government and school board associations on Wednesday, May 2 and invited the two lawyers who have been advising us on a framework for provincial benefits to speak to on our behalf. There remains a great deal of interest in this concept on the part of all parties.

We also proposed a committee to look at the standardization of work across the province. This committee would start looking at standard job descriptions, hours of work, work year, staffing formulae and compensation across the province.

Brian Blakeley, OSBCC coordinator and chief spokesperson, then reviewed all the issues which we had brought forward to date at the PDT with the government and school board associations. These include: job security, scope of work, professional development, employment equity, procurement and CETA. After Brian's presentation, he indicated to the group that the ball was now in their court and that we needed to hear something back from them.

After meeting with the school board associations, we agreed that we would need more than the May 17 date that has already been scheduled to conclude talks. We are requesting additional dates for the first week of June.

We also met May 3 to review our strategy in the PDT process. We will be holding a Leadership Meeting on Saturday, June 9 in Toronto. A flyer will be circulated to locals shortly – we need to continue to use our collective strength to challenge the government agenda of concessions and to fight for job security.

To be successful at the Provincial Discussion Table...we need your help...

The government has said publically that the wage freeze and changes to sick leave are being introduced to save jobs. At the same time, members across the province are getting layoff notices.

We need your help in identifying how many members are in danger of losing their jobs. If you have members who have been given notice of layoff, please contact Paul O'Donnell at podonnell@cupe.ca and Terri Preston at terri.preston@cupe4400.org as soon as possible.

We need to know the numbers of employees affected, job titles, and which schools they work in (if known). The idea is to develop a provincial picture of layoffs and draw public attention to the cuts happening in schools. This is a key piece in a campaign to support maintaining the level of service to students in schools and to securing employment for our members. We would like to thank those of you who have already sent in information – terrific work!

For this round of negotiations, we need to have one strong organized voice. If our employers and the government see that mobilization is well underway, our power will be stronger at the bargaining table.

We will have further information for you following our May 17 talks with the government. Please keep an eye open for the email advising you of our next call.

For locals sending representatives to the CUPE Ontario Division Convention, there is a school board caucus scheduled for Wednesday, May 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the Mecuri Room.

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

In solidarity,

Your Bargaining Committee

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