

PROVINCIAL BARGAINING UPDATE

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UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BARGAINING PROCESS

As you may have heard, today the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) announced that it will be holding strike votes over the next two months. The decision to take a strike vote is one step in the bargaining process, as laid out in the *Ontario Labour Relations Act (OLRA)*. ETFO has indicated that while the votes take place, it will continue to engage the government in central bargaining, with the goal of reaching a negotiated deal.

At the same time, education workers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) are in the process of holding strike votes across the province. CUPE has also made the decision to file a "no-board report." By filing a "no-board" report – which is another required step in the bargaining process – CUPE will be in a position to engage in a legal job action by the week of September 23. However, this does not necessarily mean a job action will occur – CUPE maintains its desire to engage in "meaningful conversations," and has reached agreement with representatives from the government and school boards to appoint a mediator.

While each union is at a different stage in the bargaining process, we are all united in our shared goal to protect and enhance Ontario's world-class publicly funded education system. As the process unfolds, members will receive further information about how you can support your colleagues' efforts.

OECTA continues to meet with representatives of the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association to negotiate the central terms of our collective agreement.

At time of writing, there are two additional bargaining dates scheduled for September and early October. The Association's goal remains to negotiate a fair agreement that ensures quality working and learning conditions.

Catholic teachers may also be called on to take strike votes as part of our bargaining strategy. Please continue to check your personal email or the Member's Area at catholicteachers.ca for updates on significant developments in the bargaining process, and encourage fellow OECTA members to register their personal email address [HERE](#).

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