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## STRIKE VOTE NEEDED TO SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING TEAM

On November 12 and 13, the Association will be asking all members to vote in favour of a strike mandate.

Last week, we outlined some of the Association's priorities at the bargaining table, related to the Ford government's reckless cuts to publicly funded education:

- Issue 1: Protecting class sizes
- Issue 2: Protecting programs for vulnerable students
- Issue 3: Protecting the full-day Kindergarten program

There are also discussions happening related to several important issues that affect the health and well-being of Catholic teachers and their families.

### Issue 4: Protecting Teachers' Health and Safety

As was clearly shown in OECTA's *Safer Schools for All* report, there are serious and persistent problems related to reporting and sharing of information about violence in schools.

All workers deserve to have information that could affect workplace safety. This includes information about persons with a history of violent behaviour. Also, when an incident of violence or harassment occurs, teachers deserve a straightforward process to identify and resolve the issue. The Association is looking for the government to accept its responsibility to protect the safety of every teacher in publicly funded Catholic schools in Ontario, by providing funding and programs to ensure all school boards are adhering to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

### Issue 5: Protecting Members' Benefits

The OECTA Benefits Plan helps ensure the health and well-being of Catholic teachers and their families. The Association is asking that the government fund the plan properly, so it is sustainable over the long term and protected against unforeseen events. Thus far, the government has been unwilling to make such a commitment, opting instead to use teachers' health and well-being as a bargaining chip.

### Issue 6: Protecting Members' Livelihoods

The government has introduced legislation and made numerous public statements about capping compensation increases for public sector workers, including teachers. Teachers deserve fair compensation for the vital work we do. We must demand that the government bring these issues to the bargaining table where they belong, to be negotiated in good faith.

## ATTEND A RALLY!

Last week, you also received information about rallies being held over the next few days in communities across the province. All members are strongly encouraged to attend one of these rallies – whichever is most convenient for you – to learn more about the issues and show support for your Provincial Bargaining Team. If you have any questions, please contact your [local OECTA unit](#).