

# PROVINCIAL BARGAINING UPDATE



**NOTE: THE CONTENT OF OECTA PROVINCIAL BARGAINING UPDATES IS CONFIDENTIAL TO MEMBERS. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION OR POST IT ONLINE.**

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## OECTA ANNOUNCES ONE-DAY FULL WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICES NEXT TUESDAY

This afternoon, at the direction of the Provincial Executive, the Association informed the government and Catholic school board trustees that **on Tuesday, January 21, OECTA members will hold a one-day, province-wide full withdrawal of services**.

### Why is OECTA taking this strike action?

The Provincial Bargaining Team has met nearly 40 times with representatives of the government and Catholic school board trustees. We have been able to work constructively with the trustees. However, it is abundantly clear that the Ford government has no intention of reversing any of their devastating cuts.

After having announced our administrative job action, OECTA arrived at the bargaining table last Thursday prepared to engage in two days of negotiations. However, within hours, the Ministry of Labour-appointed conciliator agreed that the parties remained too far apart on key issues, and recommended cancelling the discussions. While the Minister of Education continues to make public statements about his desire to invest in education, at the bargaining table the government's representatives have indicated they have no mandate to abandon the Ford government's regressive agenda. Bargaining has reached an impasse.

Catholic teachers made our voice clear in November when members voted 97.1 per cent in favour of taking strike action. That overwhelming mandate should have sent a resounding message to this government that Catholic teachers would not accept an agreement that would have devastating, long-term consequences for our students and schools. Sadly, the government has chosen repeatedly to ignore this message. Instead, they are insisting on making cuts, while also attempting to mislead the public about the key bargaining issues.

The government's conduct has left the Association little choice but to take the next legal step in the bargaining process, which is a full withdrawal of our services. This action will be the first of its kind for Catholic teachers in more than 20 years.

### What happens now?

In the coming days, you will receive important information regarding your responsibilities during the one-day full withdrawal of services.

The administrative job action that begins today will continue until next Tuesday. It will then resume after the one-day full withdrawal of services, and remain in effect until further job action is announced or a tentative agreement is reached. For information on the administrative job action, visit the [Members' Area at catholicteachers.ca](#).

In addition, a second round of information pickets will be held across the province this Friday, January 17. You will receive additional information about these information pickets, including materials for distribution, from your unit president.

It is critical that you continue to closely monitor your personal email for further updates, including checking your junk, spam, or promotions folders. If you have not registered your email, or if you need to update your email address, you can do so [HERE](#). You are also encouraged to visit the [Members' Area at catholicteachers.ca](#), where you can read past bargaining updates, find information on frequently asked questions about OECTA's strike action, and learn more about some of the key issues at the bargaining table.

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