

November 1, 2019

CUPE
EDUCATION
WORKERS

THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

BARGAINING
UPDATE
2019

Bulletin #15

**To: Local Presidents and Executives, Bargaining Committees,
and Membership**

***** Please share with CUPE local members only *****

Ratification votes are complete.

Before we share the results of the ratification votes, we wanted to take the opportunity to address a few items.

- Thank you to all the locals and executives that once again ensured timely, organized, and efficient meetings which allowed the tentative agreement to be explained and members an opportunity to have their voices heard.
- Thank you to all the members who took the opportunity to come to the meeting, hear the details of the tentative agreement, and share concerns as well as gratitude.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in strike preparations, rallies, info pickets, community outreach, and job actions. Your efforts were key in ensuring that we were able to achieve a freely negotiated collective agreement that delivered no concessions, investments in our services, improvements to our benefits, and a modest wage increase.
- We want to acknowledge that, although the central agreement did ratify, it was not ratified by all locals across the province. This sends a clear message to the employer and the province that although CUPE members have accepted this deal, there is much more work that needs to be done to address the low wages, working conditions, and respect for our professions in our workplaces and in this province.

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- We have a great deal of work ahead. We need to move forward on campaigns that will address issues such as Violence in the Workplace, DECE working conditions, Preventative Maintenance concerns, and more. We must change the belief that the only way working conditions improve is at the bargaining table. We must build on the public awareness that we achieved during our bargaining mobilization and use it to discuss these key issues and move them forward into policy issues for the current government.

We can share that the tentative agreement reached with the Council of Trustees Association and the Government of Ontario has been ratified.

We now need to turn our efforts to supporting locals in their drive to achieve local agreements that address the needs of their members. In addition, we must continue supporting our teaching colleagues and fellow education workers. The Ontario School Board Council of Unions (OSBCU) is also committed to ensuring that local leaders have a clear understanding of the Central Agreement and are provided the tools required to ensure that hours and positions lost through the actions of local school boards are reversed and the investments made through the agreement are acted upon as soon as possible. To that end, the OSBCU is holding area meetings throughout the month of November to provide these tools and clarification to local presidents. There is much work to be done, and the Executive members of the OSBCU are ready to provide support, be it central disputes to resolve staffing, providing clarification on language, or mobilization support to bolster local strike-
avert efforts.

Thank you once again for all your efforts.

In Solidarity,



Laura Walton
President, OSBCU



Darcie McEathron
Ontario School Board Coordinator, CUPE

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