

CUPE  
EDUCATION  
WORKERS

## THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

March 26, 2020

### MEMBERS' BULLETIN UPDATE

Dear CUPE education workers in Ontario:

We have several updates to give you since our last Facebook Live event:

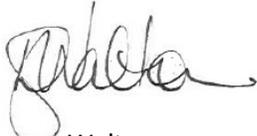
- Monday, March 23, we met the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Education.
  - a. We asked for assurances that CUPE education workers would continue to receive their wages for the duration of school closures. They assured us that school boards would honour contracts and the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) have not been changed. This means that funding for school boards is unchanged.
  - b. After the meeting and mindful of the need for written guarantees, we asked for official assurances from the Ministry.
  - c. As long as we are receiving our salaries, our benefits remain in place.
  - d. The Ministry have no indication whether the school closures would extend beyond April 6.
- We also raised concerns with the Ministry about online learning, both in the areas of inequity among students and how our members would be expected to support.
- We continued to advocate on behalf of locals that are experiencing unique challenges, such as community use of schools, how to ensure that our work is protected and the safety of our members.
- We now have regular meetings with the unions who represent education workers.
- On March 30, OSBCU will meet the Council of Trustees' Association (CTA) and the Ministry. On the agenda are central disputes, the central-local split and a Letter of Understanding that OSBCU is putting forward to protect the rights and wages of CUPE education workers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- It is important to remember that we are essentially on home assignment. The employer can ask us to report to work or assign duties for us to complete as though we were at work. If this happens, please contact your local executive for guidance. OSBCU will also be available to provide support.

**Coming next:** An analysis of the Ford government's Economic and Fiscal Update release on March 25

In solidarity!



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