



Update for May 7th, 2021

It's not the longest update for you, but it is a very important one! Make sure you read it all over!

Central Bargaining Survey - *SUPER IMPORTANT* - I know our contract doesn't expire until August 31, 2022 but planning and gathering information has begun so that we're ready and prepared to bargain. The very first part of being ready is asking all 55,000 OSBCU members across Ontario for their input on what is important to them for Central Bargaining issues. It's important to remember that Central and Local bargaining issues are totally separate. Central issues apply to all OSBCU members and Local issues only apply to our own Local. I'm asking that everyone complete the survey for a couple reasons. 1) So that you have input into the process and your ideas and opinions are heard.

...and 2) The local with the highest percentage of involvement from it's members is eligible to win a prize.

Please take some time this weekend or on your lunch today (the survey is due by May 15th) to follow the link below and complete the survey and encourage everyone else in your building to do the same. You can click to link to the survey here -

<https://survey-sondage.cupe.ca/index.php/317232?lang=en>

PD Day Cancellation (from Pat Amatangelo) - Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions and timing, our annual PD Day has been cancelled again. We hoped that we could run it this year after missing last year, but the chances of being able to have 300-400 people gather in one place again in the next 6 weeks just wasn't in the cards.

Education Funding for 2021/22 School Year - Attached with this update is a memo from CUPE National including statements from Laura Walton, OSBCU President about the announcement of the funding for Education for the next school year. More information will be coming from OSBCU within a few days after staff have a chance to do a deep dive into the numbers and interpret what it really means to schools and staffing.

Note to Casuals - if you aren't called for coverage and are told there's no work available, YOU NEED TO LET US KNOW. We have local collective agreement language for first day coverage for all permanent positions. If you find yourself in this position, please call Mark Lachowicz at 905-308-5090 and we will find out if the lack of work is legitimate or not.

Send us an email before Monday!! - If you regularly work afternoon shift and you would like to see afternoon shifts move to 12-8 instead of 2-10, send an email to the office - cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca before Monday and we'll see how many people would like to see that change. If the number of responses is great, we can ask that the employer temporarily adjust hours for a couple reasons. In your email, please comment "Please ask for 12-8". We cannot promise that it will change, but we can ask for them to consider it. It's important to note that this change would be for all afternoon staff so that everyone is on the same shift.

That's it for this week folks. Stay safe, stay healthy.

Blake

“Historic investment”? Funding for Ontario schools still shortchanges students, workers

TORONTO, ON – Recycled money and not enough new funding to improve school safety and supports for students: according to the union that represents 55,000 education workers in Ontario, these are the two major takeaways from the provincial government’s announcement yesterday of the 2021-22 Grants for Students Needs (GSN).

Leaders from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) offered this withering assessment after a review of the GSN’s “B memos,” through which the Ministry of Education provides funding to school boards for the coming school year.

“Investing more? Maybe in absolute dollars. But enough funding to improve supports for Ontario students? No way,” said CUPE’s Laura Walton, president of CUPE’s Ontario School Board Council of Unions.

“When the numbers are adjusted for higher enrolment, per-pupil funding is only up by 1.2%,” continued Walton. “Then if you factor in inflation, real per-pupil funding is down. School boards will be categorically incapable of making improvements to services or staffing based on this GSN funding.”

She noted that in [Memo B07](#)’s section on Continued COVID-19 Funding Supports, “there is no money designated for enhanced cleaning. This could mean schools going back to pre-pandemic practices, like every-other-day cleaning. There has to be specified funding for specified needs to make sure boards have the money to meet all needs in schools, including those created by the pandemic,” declared Walton.

Analysis of the details in the government’s GNS announcement reveals other sobering details of funding for school boards in the 2021-22 school year:

- \$59 million for continued special education and mental health supports is actually only \$49 million in new money, because the first \$10 million was announced last year and is currently being spent; the other \$49 million will hire a maximum of one extra person in only 17% of schools.
- \$20 million in funding to support learning recovery and renewal is a spend of less than \$10 per student.

Walton also commented on \$508 million to be accessed via school boards’ reserve funds: “In fact, this represents 31% of the \$1.6 billion in resources to respond to COVID. It’s not new money and it stores up future trouble for school boards who have ‘unlocked’ their reserves. And never forget that much of those reserves were generated through understaffing, so it becomes yet another example of the Ford government’s promotion of poor fiscal practices.”

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For more information, please contact:

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Mary Unan, CUPE Communications, 647-390-9839



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