



Members Update for May 30th, 2022

Who Will We Bargain With? - By Friday morning the provincial election will be all but over and we will have a newly elected provincial government in a couple weeks. This is who will be on the other side of the bargaining table with us very soon. Our wages are one of the things that are bargained for us by the OSBCU, representing almost 55,000 CUPE education workers across Ontario. OSBCU bargains with the Crown (government) and the CTA (Council of Trustees Association) for these things.

We have fallen behind the last decade or so when it comes to inflation and the cost of living. Real estate prices are ridiculous. Gas prices are still going up. Grocery costs are higher almost every time you walk into a grocery store. Our increases aren't even close to keeping up with all the mounting costs associated with living in Ontario. If we are faced with another PC majority, I fear that we'll have a mass exodus of people from the Education sector much like we've seen in the healthcare, hospital and long term care sectors. Bill 124 that was introduced by the PC government has limited our increases to 1% a year (but management still gets healthy increases) along with other public sector workers (healthcare, municipal, etc) and is expected to do the same if they are voted in again – or legislate a wage freeze like the Liberals did under Bill 115 a number of years ago.

I took some criticism last week about some of the things I talked about and that's to be expected whenever politics are being discussed. I'm not trying to sway anyone's vote, I'm pointing out one of the major factors that we all have in common – what's deposited into our bank accounts every two weeks for the work we do. If you believe that the work you do has more value to our community than what you're being paid and if you're finding that your bills and expenses are growing faster than your paycheque – then send that message with your vote. Education is a mess in Ontario. The funding formula is outdated and the needs of our schools have radically changed over the last number of years. Students need more resources and help from caring and considerate staff. Staff need more resources to do the job the public expects from them to prepare their kids for life. Everyone deserves a safe, secure, comfortable and clean environment to learn and work in. Violence in schools is rising at alarming rate. Education shouldn't be "let's see how little we can put into this and still have it function". This should be "what else can we provide to make the system better and a leader in public school education across the world".

It's so important for everyone to vote this week and consider all these things when putting that X beside a candidate's

name. The election is on Thursday but advance polls are open and many including myself have already voted in the advance polls. I don't like lines much and went on a rainy day and was in, voted and back in my car in literally about 5 minutes or less last week.

Here's a few links to the major party platforms and ideas :

NDP - <https://www.ontariondp.ca/platform>

Liberal - <https://ontarioliberal.ca/platform/>

Conservative - <https://ontariopc.ca/> (shocker – there's not many details at all here – mostly bashing other ideas)



Stay cool this week – remember the heat event guidelines as the first few days of the week are supposed to be very warm and sticky. Make it a priority to get out and vote this week and let your voice be heard by who your choice is!

Cheers,

Blake