



**Education Workers
Together**

**Les travailleurs
de l'éducation,
solidaires**

Members Update for August 9th, 2022

Just as a follow up from last week's update – here's a few things for you about both Central and Local bargaining and what's happening with our current contract that expires at the end of this month. I started my holidays yesterday at 2pm so my voicemail has been changed, my email responses are in vacation mode and for the next few weeks, please continue to contact stewards for any issues and they will be in touch with Executive members for any assistance they need to provide you with correct and timely answers. While I'm away, Patrick Cumbo and Pat Amatangelo will be holding down the fort with the help of the rest of the Executive.

OSBCU & Central Bargaining : So far, the OSBCU has 4 days of bargaining booked with the Crown (government) and CTA (Council of Trustees Association). Yesterday and today are the two days this week and next Wednesday and Thursday I believe are the next two dates. If you want to know how things are going Centrally – where all the decisions are made on pay, benefits and sick time, OSBCU is sending out updates after each bargaining session so you can see exactly what was proposed by OSBCU and what was proposed by the government or replied to. You can sign up for those updates to come directly to your personal email by filling out a quick form you can find by [clicking here](#). You'll receive the same information as everyone else at the same time they do.

Local Bargaining - On Friday, members of your Local Bargaining Committee met with members of the employer's bargaining team. We met at a neutral location at the Hamilton CUPE Office. Neither side had all of it's members present. On our side we had Dave Dickhout, Noelle from CUPE National and myself. On the employer's side there was Jamie Nunn – HR Superintendent, Josee Tremblay – Labor Relations Manager, Dan Rutherford and Brenda Maxwell. The meeting was held to be in compliance with parties meeting within 15 days after the Central / Local split in bargaining was finalized. We went over the Central / Local split, some general ground rules for the bargaining, set some future dates for Local bargaining and the employer had some suggestions for “housekeeping” changes to the Collective Agreement that we will provide a response to the next time we meet. No proposals for any language changes were discussed aside from the housekeeping issues.

YOU Can Be A Picket Captain - While we all hope that job action isn't necessary in the fall and that discussions at the Central and Local bargaining tables get us the results we deserve, it would be foolish to rely on just that and not have an alternative plan of action. **Part of that plan of action is making sure the Local is prepared for any type of job action at all. That takes a lot of people. A lot.** Exec have their own jobs to look after. Stewards have their own jobs to look after. All of these tasks need to be spread out among all members. Every OSBCU Local across the province is preparing the same way to be ready for whatever happens.

We are going to need about 30-40 "picket captains" to help organize people and keep track of them IF job action is called for provincially or locally. The basic job duty of a picket captain is to keep in touch with your list of members, make sure they know where they are assigned to picket and keep track of when they arrive & leave from picket lines. Training for these positions will be made available in September through OSBCU.

And I'll stress this point – we are going to prepare like we're going on strike and hope that we don't need to.

If you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch with one of our lead mobilizers (Jay Atkinson & Laurie Penner) or please email the office at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca

Save Yourself Some \$\$\$ - As an Education Worker in Ontario, you have an option to get a quote and save some money with OTIP Insurance for your home and vehicle insurance needs. I switched my policy over a few years ago after my insurance company for 15 years tried to tell me that because of my address, my rates were going up 40% when it was time to renew again. So I went to the OTIP site for our members (<https://www.otipinsurance.com/cupe4153>) and entered my info and someone called me back in about an hour and gave me their quote which was within a nickel of what I was already paying my current insurance provider – WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL 40%. So I saved almost \$800 and kept all the same things on my policy from the old one. If you're in the market to renew your insurance policies in the next few months, give OTIP a call or click the link above and see if you can save some money with them!

The weather yesterday was really gross in some of our schools without a/c and I tip my hat to everyone for continuing to do the work we do and prepare our buildings for the return of our co-workers and students in a few weeks. When it's so sticky and humid at 6am when you walk in that you start sweating almost immediately – you know it's not a good day to lay down too much wax and all your dry mops are gonna stick to the floors! Hopefully the rest of the week cools off a bit or at least the humidity goes away so it's not as uncomfortable or sticky for everyone who's working!

I'll see you all in a couple of weeks – be safe, look out for each other and make sure you are signed up for the emails from OSBCU or follow them on Facebook or Twitter so you know what's happening with Central Bargaining this week and next!

Cheers,

Blake