



Quick Update for November 7th, 2022

Remember today folks. The day the people rose up and the government blinked.

With the assurances that Bill 28 would be repealed, the OSBCU made the decision to return to the bargaining table and have us go back to work starting tomorrow.

Some of our members will say we caved. Some are happy we're going back tomorrow. Some are on the fence and don't know what to think...

This is a MASSIVE win for us. The Labor Movement came together when we were threatened and forced Doug to walk back the attack on Constitutional rights of workers that could have translated into attacks on workers in every sector and in every province.

Let me be clear – we are NOT backing down. For now, we're on standby. While we return to work tomorrow, we need to be mindful that if the Crown and CTA don't engage in meaningful, fair bargaining – we may be walking out again and have the FULL FORCE of the Labor Movement with us. If the OSBCU doesn't see meaningful and progressive negotiations at the Central table – they can submit 5 day strike notice and we're back to where we were today but with the clear and undivided support of every union imaginable standing with us.

In my opinion, we have not caved. We have done what we proposed to do from the start – pursue a negotiated settlement with the government that shows value to us as workers, keeps kids in class and has the support of parents across the province. If we had the assurance in writing that Bill 28 would be repealed and did not agree to go back to the bargaining table and back to work – we would lose a hefty amount of public and parental support. None of us WANTED to be on strike. None of us wanted to lose wages to demonstrate against a ridiculous and damaging piece of legislation that stripped people of their constitutional rights.

I said to you all last week – WE GOT THIS – and we did. With the help of the Labor Movement, parent and community support – we will do what we wanted to achieve 5 months ago – freely negotiate a new contract that benefits not only our own members but also students, their families and our co-workers.

For now, that's where we are. You can expect an update from Laura and the OSBCU team later today as they make their way back to Toronto to begin bargaining again.

In solidarity,

Blake

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