

Bargaining Bulletin

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On April 18th, in discussions with representatives from the Ministry of Education and with the Ontario Public School Boards Association, OSSTF tabled a proposal on behalf of its teacher and occasional teacher members designed to address financial concerns previously expressed by the government.

The proposal included 0% wage increases in each of the next 2 years, and only a cost of living adjustment in years 3 and 4. This would have created an equitable and manageable wage freeze.

Also included in the proposal was a plan to encourage the retirement of more senior teachers to be replaced by new teachers. This would not only save millions of dollars through reduced salaries, but would also create much needed employment opportunities for a large number of certified teachers unable to find work.

Further, OSSTF proposed the 15% reduction of high-cost central administrative positions and a moratorium on Ministry of Education initiatives for the next 4 years.

Finally, OSSTF's proposal to create employee run benefits plans would have not only allowed school boards to remove unfunded liabilities from their books but would have provided the opportunity for ongoing efficiencies and cost savings.

Each of these proposals would have resulted in significant and real savings to the government. None of these proposals would have had a negative impact on front line services delivered to students.

Despite the unprecedented offer made by OSSTF to forego salary increases, as well as proposals to find efficiencies through other cost cutting measures, the government rejected the proposal immediately.

OSSTF is disappointed that its efforts to avoid needless conflict in education have been rejected.



Kenneth Coran, President