

Bargaining Bulletin

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Dear Colleague

OSSTF/FEESO met with government and school board officials from Thursday, November 8 to the early morning hours of Monday, November 12. The goal of the meetings was to revisit the contractual components that have previously been identified in the original OSSTF/FEESO proposals for Teacher/Occasional Teachers and Support Staff.

OSSTF/FEESO made the offer to continue talks in an effort to reach an acceptable agreement. However, the government refused because OSSTF/FEESO would not postpone the start of our sanctions without having a proposal we could take back to our members. As a result, on Monday, November 12, OSSTF/FEESO support staff and teacher and occasional teacher members in 20 school boards began sanctions. OSSTF/FEESO is open to further discussions at both the provincial and local levels; however, at this time, no further talks are scheduled. Next week, if there is no change to the current situation, 32 boards with 40,000 OSSTF/FEESO members will also begin taking sanctions.

Members of the Provincial Executive have been conducting numerous media interviews with reporters from across the province to ensure that OSSTF/FEESO's position is being publicized. In addition to other issues, the Provincial Executive members have again been emphasizing that support staff as well as teachers and occasional teachers are impacted by Bill 115 and are involved in taking sanctions; that this battle is not about a wage freeze, that OSSTF/FEESO agreed to a two year wage freeze in April and that OSSTF/FEESO wants a solution and has proposed many ideas that meet the government's fiscal parameters to achieve one.

The Liberal government needs to remove the restrictions that are preventing us from achieving a deal. We have made it abundantly clear to the government that the OECTA MoU is not acceptable to OSSTF/FEESO members. In fact, the OECTA MoU is not acceptable to many of its own members. No OECTA bargaining unit has yet ratified the agreement locally.

OSSTF/FEESO has also been in constant contact with both CUPE and ETFO and is aware of how those unions are proceeding. OSSTF/FEESO is further along in the *Ontario Labour Relations Act* process than both CUPE and ETFO. As a result, neither currently have Bargaining Units in strike positions. We are working together as much as is possible as we all move forward.

If you have any questions about the current situation, please contact your local Bargaining Unit President.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Coran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Coran, President