

Provincial Bargaining **UPDATE**

NOTE: THE CONTENT OF OECTA PROVINCIAL BARGAINING UPDATES IS CONFIDENTIAL TO MEMBERS. PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA OR POST IT ONLINE.

July 9, 2015 • Issue 35

BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS

Your Provincial Bargaining Team has spent 14 days since June 20 in talks with the employer side, consisting of the government and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA). Unfortunately these negotiations have failed to produce a settlement.

The bargaining team and the employer both made changes to their own initial proposals. But the most recent position tabled by the employer failed to respond to OECTA's key priorities, while continuing to attack current provisions in our collective agreements. It appears the government and trustees see teachers as indentured labour and not as the professionals on whom the entire education system is dependent.

The government and trustees are intent on eroding teachers' working conditions despite the negative impact it will have in the classroom, and for families across Ontario.

Your bargaining team entered this week committed to reaching a negotiated settlement, however, it is now apparent the government and trustees did not share this commitment. Furthermore, the employer side's bargaining team has proven disinterested in listening, unwilling to make responsible offers to our proposals, and unable to justify its irresponsible and misguided approach to the process.

It is clear the government is more interested in appeasing the elected trustees than addressing the needs of teachers and their students.

As a result, your bargaining team met with the employer side and the conciliator, Jim Breckenridge, and requested a "no board" report be issued. This report starts the countdown to strike action.

OECTA will be in a legal strike position on August 17, 2015.

The Provincial Executive determined strike action will commence on the first scheduled "instructional day" of your 2015-16 school board calendar. For clarity, an instructional day includes any professional activity or student instructional day in that calendar.

The strike will initially take the form of an enhanced work-to-rule action. The specific details of this action will be provided on August 11, 2015.

To remain informed, please continue to monitor the situation via provincial bargaining updates and e-blasts. Bargaining information is also available on the OECTA website, www.oecta.on.ca, in the Provincial Bargaining Updates section of the Members' Centre. We will issue updates weekly throughout the summer.

If you have any questions or concerns about the bargaining process, please do not hesitate to contact your local bargaining unit president. Unit contact information can be found at <http://bit.ly/1ARgSH>.

JD/aa