Bargaining Bulletin

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Dear Colleague

On August 16, 2012, the Minister of Education announced that the Liberal Government had prepared draft legislation to implement restraint measures in the education sector. The legislation is designed to impose the OECTA MOU or something that is *substantially similar* (if successfully locally negotiated by August 31, 2012) upon all education workers. If a locally negotiated collective agreement is settled after August 31, 2012, it must be *substantively identical.*

Copies of the draft legislation are attached in both English and French.

The Provincial Executive is currently reviewing the legislation. Also, OSSTF/FEESO's in-house legal counsel is meeting with legal counsel from other organizations in the education sector to prepare the appropriate legal challenges.

The Provincial Executive is also liaising with both CUPE and ETFO regarding the legislation.

Although the Government has not announced when it would recall the Legislature to deal with the legislation, Premier McGuinty has hinted publically that it may be the week of August 26, 2012.

Tim Hudak has called on the Premier to recall the Legislature immediately. The Conservatives have not yet indicated whether they will support the legislation. They want to be briefed by the Education Ministry before commenting, and are still pushing for an across-the-board wage freeze law for all public sector workers.

I have been conducting many media interviews related to the introduction of the legislation. I have emphasized in each interview that all of the actions the Government has been taking affect teachers and support staff and that the legislation, if implemented, would have a negative impact on all education workers. I have also been emphasizing that OSSTF/FEESO teachers and support staff will be in their schools with their students on the first day of school.

We are actively pursuing local collective agreement settlements in several boards across the province with the hopes of achieving a settlement prior to the August 31, 2012 deadline imposed by the Minister. Our strike votes will proceed as scheduled.

As more information becomes available, we will continue to update you.

Kenneth Coran, President

OSSTF/FEESO

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