

Hi I'm Harvey Bischof, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

I'm here at Queen's Park at an event organized by the Ontario Parent Action Network bringing together parents and educators who are as worried as we know OSSTF members are about the Ford government's inadequate reopening plan.

Despite our best efforts, we've had virtually no meaningful consultation with this government and they kept us in the dark about their reopening plan until the day it was announced. And we saw upon its announcement that this is a plan that is too little, too late. They have failed to put in the resources required to meet the advice of the very medical experts they claim to be listening to. There is insufficient money for staffing in order to keep classes small enough to allow for safe physical distancing. There's insufficient money for cleaners and custodians who would keep our schools safe and sanitized. There's insufficient money to make our physical spaces safe with things like appropriate ventilation.

So for those reasons we are continuing to work with the other education unions, with parent groups, with local leaders and with legal counsel to make sure that we have access to every possible avenue in order to protect and defend our members as we approach September.

We understand you're worried. We're listening. We will continue to communicate with you.

Thank you for listening.