OSSTF/FEESO

MEDIA RELEASE

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OSSTF/FEESO Teachers and Education Workers Deliver a Strong and Clear Strike Mandate

TORONTO, ON — Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) covered under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act* have delivered overwhelming support for strike action, if needed, at both central bargaining tables.

OSSTF/FEESO Teacher/Occasional Teacher members voted 96% in favour of a strike mandate, while Education Workers voted 92% in favour.

"Members have sent the Ford government a clear message: we are united, we expect better, and we are prepared to stand together for working conditions our members need and the learning conditions students deserve," said OSSTF/FEESO President Martha Hradowy.

"These strong mandates show the frustration that teachers and education workers have experienced and felt after eight years of Ford government cuts to publicly funded education. Larger class sizes, fewer supports for students, and a failure to address the issues that keep our schools healthy and safe are among the many concerns we have heard from our members, students, families, and communities," continued Hradowy.

The results of these strike votes do not make job action automatic or inevitable. Additional legal steps would be required before OSSTF/FEESO members could be in a legal strike position.

Hradowy concluded, "Our goal remains the same. We want to reach negotiated agreements at the central tables that are fair for our members, students, and communities. We look forward to beginning negotiations and hope the government will bring reasonable proposals to the tables, rather than more and more cuts to the system."

Bargaining at the OSSTF/FEESO central tables will begin over the next week. The Education Worker central table will begin negotiations on November 20, followed by two days of bargaining on December 9 and 10. Negotiations for the Teacher/Occasional Teacher central table will be on November 24, December 2, and December 15.

OSSTF/FEESO, founded in 1919, has over 60,000 members across Ontario. They include public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, early childhood educators, psychologists, secretaries, speech-language pathologists, social workers, plant support personnel, university support staff, and many others in education.

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