Teachers and Education Workers
Deliver Strong Strike Mandate Across Ontario

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TORONTO, ON – L'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), Ontario School Board Council of Unions (CUPE-OSBCU), and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) issue the following statement:

"This month, more than 255,000 teachers and education workers across Ontario participated in strike votes and delivered a strong mandate for action. The result sends a clear message to the government and school board employer bargaining agencies that we are united and prepared to fight for strong collective agreements that deliver better working conditions for teachers and education workers and improve learning conditions for students. While some education union affiliates are still finalizing their strike vote dates, the results to date, along with ongoing votes, show a united, sector-wide commitment to achieving meaningful improvements through collective bargaining.

For years, teachers and education workers have been asked to do more with less while chronic underfunding erodes conditions in our schools. They face increasing workloads, rising incidents of workplace violence, inadequate resources, and growing pressure to meet the needs of students without the supports required to do so effectively.

Teachers and education workers deserve safe, well-resourced workplaces with adequate staffing levels and meaningful resources and supports for students. The status quo is unsustainable. Our strong collective strike mandates reflect the frustration felt in every corner of the province. They are a powerful declaration of our members' commitment to stand behind their bargaining goals to achieve better working and learning conditions, secure the resources and supports students need, and ensure teachers and education workers have the respect, fair compensation, and safe workplaces they deserve.

These strike votes are a call for meaningful action from the government and employer bargaining agencies. The challenges facing publicly funded education are urgent, and meaningful bargaining is needed to address the realities teachers and education workers live through every day, including large and increasingly complex classes, growing workloads, unsafe conditions, and increasing burnout.

The collective strength demonstrated by more than 255,000 teachers and education workers cannot be ignored. We remain committed to reaching fair negotiated agreements, but our members have made it clear that they expect real improvements and genuine respect, so we can best support students and champion the future of publicly funded education."

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