

May 7, 2019

SENT VIA EMAIL

Harvey Bischof
President
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
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Brother Bischof,

The struggle of educators defending fair working conditions is as urgent as it has ever been in Ontario.

In secondary schools across the province, students are being told in no uncertain terms that their provincial government will not prioritize their success. Doug Ford has conveyed to the OSSTF that he believes your members' jobs to be expendable and that you are expected to do more with much less.

However, a movement has been flourishing across the province, opposing Conservative cuts to education; one that unites students with parents, teachers with educational support workers, and public with private sector trade unionists.

On behalf of Unifor's 315,000 national members, including the 168,000 who call Ontario home, we stand in solidarity with you and your union. Private and public sector workers must unite when faced with governments that seek to divide our members and erode our working conditions and public services.

We hope that this unity will empower you as you begin negotiations with the Province of Ontario. Unifor members will support your demands in our communities, with our MPPs, and will continue to support the movement for stronger public services and good public sector jobs in Ontario.

The right to collectively bargain is protected under Canadian law. As a democratic union, OSSTF has the fundamental right and responsibility to protect its members and represent their best interests. Unifor will publicly condemn any attempt to intimidate your union or discredit the role that it plays in improving the lives of its members while defending public education.

You are not alone in your mission. Every Ontario family benefits from supporting our secondary school teachers and support staff, as well as from fully funded education.

We will support you in this upcoming round of bargaining and in your ongoing struggle for good jobs and high quality education for the students of Ontario.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Dias". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" and last name "Dias" clearly legible.

Jerry Dias
Unifor National President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naureen Rizvi". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Naureen" and last name "Rizvi" clearly legible.

Naureen Rizvi
Unifor Ontario Regional Director

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