

The OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive is pleased to present the PE Liaison Report. Please distribute widely and direct questions to your PE Liaison.

From the **Provincial Executive**

Education Forum: The Podcast Returns This November!

Season 2 of Education Forum: The Podcast launches in November. Before the new season begins, revisit all six episodes from Season 1 and celebrate our everyday education heroes. Learn more about the commitment of OSSTF/FEESO education workers and what they are willing to put on the line to protect the future of publicly funded education in Ontario.



Collective **Bargaining Updates**

Central Strike Vote Set for November



OSSTF/FEESO has reached an important stage in this round of collective bargaining. The Provincial Executive has approved a province-wide central strike vote for all members covered by the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act*.

The vote will take place digitally from November 6 to 16, 2026, and members will be able to cast their ballot through the provincial website using their Membership ID number.

It is important to understand that a strike vote is not a strike announcement and does not mean job action is imminent. Rather, it is a standard and important step in the collective bargaining process that provides the bargaining team with a strong mandate as negotiations continue. A successful strike vote demonstrates that members are united behind their bargaining priorities and prepared to support the efforts of the bargaining team in pursuing a fair negotiated agreement.

Throughout this round of bargaining, OSSTF/FEESO has continued to advocate for sustainable staffing levels, manageable workloads, protections against contracting out and job loss, and learning and working conditions that allow teachers and education workers to provide students with the support they deserve. After months of delays and limited progress at the bargaining table, a strong strike mandate will help strengthen its position in negotiations with the government and provincial employer organizations.

The decision to hold a strike vote is separate from the

ongoing Ontario Labour Relations Board process regarding central and local bargaining scope. The strike vote is being conducted to support bargaining efforts and is not being taken over the scope dispute.

Even if members vote in favour of a strike mandate, several legal steps must still occur before any strike action could take place, including conciliation, a no-board report, statutory waiting periods, and the provision of required notice. OSSTF/FEESO continues to emphasize that its goal remains achieving fair agreements through collective bargaining.

To help members understand the bargaining process and the upcoming vote, District Bargaining Information Meetings are being held across the province throughout September and October. These meetings provide updates on the status of bargaining, explain the next steps in the process, and offer members an opportunity to ask questions before voting. Members are encouraged to attend their local meeting and visit [Underfunded.ca/members](https://underfunded.ca/members) for meeting dates, resources, and the latest bargaining information.

Together, a strong and informed membership will help strengthen OSSTF/FEESO's efforts to secure agreements that support educators, education workers, students, and Ontario's publicly funded education system.

Make sure you're ready to vote by finding your member ID on your digital membership card or by emailing GETMYMEMBERID@OSSTF.CA

District 35 WLUSA Bargaining Update

OSSTF/FEESO District 35 Wilfrid Laurier University Staff Association (WLUSA) Bargaining Unit represents more than 600 office, clerical, and technical employees at Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo and Kitchener campuses. These members support undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and the broader university community across a wide range of professional and administrative roles.

WLUSA members are moving into a critical phase of local bargaining. Following the rejection of a tentative agreement by members on September 2, the parties returned to the bargaining table and made some progress on the key outstanding issues of benefits, professional development and remote work. Despite this progress, a tentative agreement could not be reached. As a result, a no-board report was issued by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) on September 18, 2026.

The issuance of the no-board report starts the statutory countdown toward a legal strike or lockout position. WLUSA members will be in a legal strike position, and the employer will be in a legal lockout position, as of 12:01 a.m. on October 5, 2026.

OSSTF/FEESO remains committed to supporting WLUSA members in their efforts to achieve a fair collective agreement. Updates will continue to be shared as bargaining progresses, and members are encouraged to stay informed and engaged in the process.

In solidarity, we stand with WLUSA members as they continue their fight for a fair collective agreement. More updates will be posted on their website at <https://wlusa.ca/news/>

Pensions and Benefits Updates

The Pension Blueprint returns for season 4!

Season 4 of The Pension Blueprint podcast is here to help you think through questions about money, work, retirement and purpose.

OMERS President and CEO Blake Hutcheson opens the season by sharing his perspective on long-term decision-making in a rapidly changing world. He discusses why building for future generations matters, how OMERS is evolving to meet members' needs and why a defined benefit pension is so valuable in uncertain times.

In each episode, you'll hear practical tips from pension leaders and experts in personal finance, health, longevity and human behaviour. Whether retirement is decades away or just around the corner, these conversations can help you better understand the choices that may shape your future.

Episodes drop every other week until November 10. Follow on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#) so you don't miss a new release!

▶▶ [Episode: A CEO's viewpoint: Long-term thinking in a changing world](#) 



School of Thought: A Podcast from Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

School of Thought is a new podcast series from the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), where they speak with global decision-makers about opportunities, risks, career journeys and lessons in leadership.

In the first episode of School of Thought, OTPP President and CEO Jo Taylor sits down with C.S. Venkatakrishnan (Venkat), CEO of Barclays. Venkat shares his journey from growing up in India to studying at MIT and building a career in global banking. Along the way, he reflects on the people and experiences that shaped how he leads today. Throughout, the focus is clear: leadership is about clarity, curiosity, and making good decisions in complex environments.

In other episodes of School of Thought, the OTPP speaks with global decision-makers about opportunities, risks, career journeys and lessons in leadership.

Check out and follow to hear more episodes on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or [YouTube](#)!

▶▶ [Episode: Thoughts from C.S. Venkatakrishnan, Group Chief Executive Officer, Barclays](#) 

Awards and Recognition

Nominations Open: Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award

The Canadian Labour Congress is accepting nominations for the [Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award](#). The award recognizes a worker with a disability whose activism and leadership have advanced disability rights within their union or community. Any union member or organization may submit a nomination.

If you require an alternative format for accessibility reasons, please email human-rights@clctc.ca with your required format. All nominations must be received no later than **November 6, 2026**.

2026 OSSTF/FEESO Student Achievement Awards (SAA)

OSSTF/FEESO is pleased to announce the opening of our annual Student Achievement Awards. **This year, our Student Achievement Awards theme is “Creating a Meaningful Legacy”.** A bilingual poster and accompanying information documents were delivered to each workplace during the second week of September to promote this year’s theme and the \$1,000 provincial prizes. Included in each package was an infographic outlining the application process, tips for both students and supporting staff members, a student announcement template to generate interest in the school, and student and supporting staff member letter templates.

We are encouraging students, with the support of an OSSTF/FEESO member who has worked directly with them, to submit an original piece of writing, visual art, or media based on this year’s theme: “Creating a Meaningful Legacy”. Please ensure that students have fully completed the entry form and have had a supporting staff member letter attached prior to sending it to the provincial OSSTF/FEESO office.

Schools must submit their winning entries to local District offices no later than November 19, 2026. District offices will then submit their winning pieces to the Provincial Office by December 4, 2026. Finally, provincial winners will be acknowledged and celebrated at our OSSTF/FEESO Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA) being held in Toronto, March 2027.

See forms on the Provincial website for details. Guidelines/Entry forms, and helpful tips for students and supporting staff members for the Student Achievement Awards are available online at <http://www.osstf.on.ca/studentachievementawards>. For more information, please email student.achievement.awards@osstf.ca.



Political Action and Advocacy

Engage your students in the municipal elections with Student Vote

Help students practice the skills of active and informed citizenship and experience the voting process firsthand.

Student Vote is a free, hands-on learning program for Grades 4–12, held alongside official elections. Students learn about municipal government and electoral process, discuss issues that matter to their communities, and cast ballots for the candidates running for municipal council and school trustee.

Registered schools receive:

- **Ready-to-use teaching resources**, including lesson plans, slide decks and videos
- **Support materials**, including posters and an election manual
- **Voting supplies**, including ballots, ballot boxes and voting screens

Resources are available in English and French.

Register your school at www.studentvote.ca or call 1-866-488-8775.



Protect the Right to Strike: Take Action Now

The federal government's [Bill C-39](#) proposes significant changes to the Canada Labour Code that could make government intervention in legal strikes easier. Canada's unions are united in sending a clear message: the right to strike and bargain collectively are fundamental workers' rights and must be protected.

On September 23, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive issued a [formal statement](#) on Bill C-39 which was clear and direct, to Prime Minister Carney and the Ontario government, "The right to strike belongs to workers not employers, not premiers and not prime ministers."

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is calling on union members across Canada to mobilize, and OSSTF/FEESO members can make a difference.

OSSTF/FEESO members are encouraged to take action today. Please contact your Member of Parliament using the CLC campaign letter and demand protection for workers' rights.

Our collective strength depends on our willingness to use it. Speak up, organize, and stand together to defend the right to strike.

Additional Resources and Information:

- ➡ [OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive Statement on Bill C-39](#) 
- ➡ [CLC MP letter action](#) 

Legislative Updates

Queen's Park Update

By-Elections, Cabinet Changes, and a Shortened Legislative Year September 3, 2026 By-Elections

Provincial by-elections were held in the ridings of Hamilton-East-Stoney Creek, Scarborough Southwest, and York-Simcoe on **Thursday, September 3, 2026**.

The September 3, 2026 Ontario by-elections produced no changes in party standings, with the Progressive Conservatives holding Hamilton East–Stoney Creek and York–Simcoe, while the NDP retained Scarborough Southwest. The results suggest continued stability for the Ford government but also indicates that both the Liberals and NDP remain competitive in key regions.



For labour and public education advocates, the results are largely a status quo outcome. No seats changed hands, meaning the government maintains its existing legislative position. However, the stronger Liberal performances in some ridings and the NDP's ability to retain an urban seat suggest that opposition parties remain competitive and continue to build support ahead of the next general election.

Ontario Cabinet Shuffle: Continuity with Targeted Changes

On September 10, 2026, Doug Ford announced a cabinet shuffle that largely preserved the government's senior leadership while making targeted changes to key portfolios, including Infrastructure, Labour, Treasury Board, Agriculture, and Tourism. The changes were positioned as strengthening Ontario's response to economic and trade challenges while advancing infrastructure and workforce development priorities.

Political takeaway: The shuffle signals continuity rather than a major policy shift, reinforcing the government's focus on economic growth, infrastructure expansion, workforce development, and fiscal management. The most notable move was the transfer of David Piccini to Infrastructure despite ongoing scrutiny related to the Skills Development Fund, a decision criticized by opposition parties.

Education sector impact: There were no changes to either the Minister of Education or the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, suggesting continued policy stability and no significant change in direction for Ontario's education and postsecondary sectors.

A Historically Light Legislative Calendar

The Ontario Legislature returns on **October 26, 2026** and is scheduled to sit for just **74 days** before rising on **June 3, 2027**, including an extended winter adjournment that will keep MPPs away from Queen's Park for more than two months.

The light schedule continues a broader trend noted in a [CBC News analysis](#), which found the Legislature was on pace to sit for only 53 days in 2026, making it the shortest non-election legislative year in the past five decades and well below the historical average of 84 sitting days.

Despite fewer sitting days, OSSTF/FEESO will continue to advance a proactive advocacy strategy to hold the government accountable and champion policies that protect and strengthen publicly funded education, while supporting the interests of teachers, education workers, and students across Ontario.

Professional Development and Resources

NEW! Union Training Academy—Self-Directed Union Skills Development on Brightspace

NEW!

Union Training Academy
Self-Directed Union Skills Development
on Brightspace

Build your union knowledge and leadership skills at your own pace through flexible online courses, including:

- Organizing Conversations and Worksite Meetings (EN)
- OSSTF/FEESO Bargaining Units and Local Executives (EN/FR)
- Union 101 (EN/FR)
- New Member (EN/FR)
- Constitutions 101 (EN/FR)
- Meetings, Minutes, Motions (EN/FR)
- Policy for Accessing Legal Assistance (PALA) - (EN/FR)

More courses will be added regularly.

Scan the QR code to explore the courses and try one today!



OSSTF/FEESO is proud to expand its union training opportunities to self-directed, asynchronous online Union Training Academy courses on the Brightspace virtual learning platform.

The Union Training Academy - Brightspace platform launched in September with nine courses, with more to be added over time.

The training is tailored to the needs of the audience and structured into three levels of training. Live training offered in the evenings via TEAMS continues to be available.

Overview of the Levels

Level 1: introductory and serves as an access point for any member interested in getting involved in union work. It provides overall information about union structures and operations and guides members to seeking out opportunities in their District and Bargaining Unit.

Local Training: A local training checklist is provided so that Districts and Bargaining Units can identify areas where training should be provided to help develop both local capacity and support member engagement in Federation work. Having intentional, structured, and readily accessible training for union roles provides a pathway to union work that can support any member in getting in engaged.

Levels 2 and 3: The target audience for levels 2 and 3 are those members serving in a role at the District/ Bargaining Unit level. Level 2 provides training on the essential skills for the core service areas necessary to serve in the various local roles and indicates the target audience/position. Training is self-directed, and provided virtually on the Brightspace platform. Level 3 provides advanced training for these positions and is provided via in-person workshops at Union Leadership Academy, and conferences and regionals. Advanced training builds on training from Level 2 training.

Advanced training courses provided in Level 2 and 3 are tailored to the role that members serve in in their local Bargaining Unit. If you serve in a position in your local Bargaining Unit you can access the courses by logging into your Brightspace account and using the Discover feature to enroll in courses related to your position.

Click here to access the Union Training Academy on Brightspace.



Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) News and Updates



Save the Date: CTF/FCE's 2027 Women's Symposium (Montréal)

Following the 2026 symposium in Toronto, themed *Our Roots, Our Strength, Our Rise*, CTF/FCE will host the 2027 Women's Symposium in Montréal from May 13–15, 2027, with the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT) as co-host.

Details about the OSSTF/FEESO delegation application process, registration and program information will follow in the next couple of months.

Research and Policy Partnerships

CLC's Second National Survey on Domestic Violence at Work—Is Now Open!

In 2014, we learned that 1 in 3 workers had experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, and that violence followed them to work, putting jobs and safety at risk. Now it's time to find out whether union, employer and government efforts to address domestic violence at work are having an impact.

The second National Survey on Domestic Violence at Work in Canada, led by the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and Western University, is gathering new data on workers' experiences with domestic violence and its impact in the workplace. We want to hear from all workers, 18 years of age or older, whether or not you have been a victim or witness of acts of violence, or if you have engaged in abusive behaviour.

Evidence matters. Your response will help Canada's unions push for stronger protections to make work safer for all.

Take part in the anonymous online survey today. [Share your experience](#)



Member Engagement

September 16—Province-Wide Day of Action



OSSTF/FEESO members from across Ontario wore red and purple on September 16, united in solidarity and advocating for stronger publicly funded education. [Click here to see all the pictures.](#)

September 23—Grassy Narrows River Run in Toronto



Community members and allies joined the [Grassy Narrows](#) River Run in Toronto supporting its ongoing fight for Indigenous sovereignty and environmental justice.

September 24 to 25— Provincial Council



At the September 2026 Provincial Council, OSSTF/FEESO celebrated Ontario's Francophone community and the education workers supporting accessible French-language public education. We also celebrated Larry Rousseau, recipient of the Lamp of Learning Award, honouring his lifelong advocacy for education, workers' rights, equity, and human rights.

September 26—2026 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women



OSSTF/FEESO celebrates our members honoured among the [2026 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women](#), recognizing their leadership, contributions, and inspiring stories for future generations.

September 30—National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—Orange Shirt Day—Every Child Matters



OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office paused to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. Learning and unlearning is part of our dedication to honour truth and advance reconciliation.

Highlights

Province-Wide Rally— October 24, 2026

Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Officer (EARAOO) Triennial Conference—
October 23 to October 24, 2026

Communication and Political Action Committee (CPAC) Conference— November 6 to November 7, 2026

17th Trinational Conference in Defence of Public Education—November 13 to November 15, 2026, Toronto



D/BU Memos Issued in September

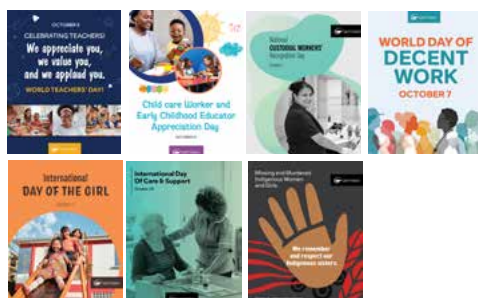
*Sign in within the members' section of the website to access President and Local Executive targeted D/BU Memos. [Access the All-Member D/BU Memos for September here.](#)

- 016** Regulation Protection Council Vacancies
- 017** Equity Mentorship Program 2026-2028
- 018** Union Training Academy Accessing
- 019** September 2026 Provincial Executive Liaison Report (PELR)
- 020** Mediation Services Resource Bank

- 021** Pension Workshop 2026-2027
- 022** Policy for Approval of Legal Assistance
- 023** Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day 2026
- 024** Application for Provincial Standing Committees and Councils
- 025** Revised Staff Association Assignments 2026-2027
- 026** OSSTF/FEESO Recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliation Week
- 027** Reissue of 2025-2026 D/BU #157 Local Bargaining Mobilization Fund
- 028** Expiring Policies AMPA 2027
- 029** Strategic Action Plan 2027-2030 Submissions
- 030** HSWSIAC Regional Training Sessions
- 031** Student Achievement Awards 2027
- 032** French Professional Development Funding
- 033** REVISED - Benevolent Council Application
- 034** Ministry Correspondence - Provincial Policy on Student Attendance Confirmation During the School Day
- 035** Ministry Correspondence - Concussion Safety and Rowan's Law Day
- 036** Bill C-39 Federal Government Moving to Restrict the Right to Strike
- 037** ESO Regional Training Sessions November 6-7, 2026

Dates of Significance in October

OSSTF/FEESO Provincial social media graphics can be accessed using the hyperlinks below.



October 2

National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day

October 4

The National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse/Two-Spirit People

October 5

World Teachers' Day

October 7

World Day for Decent Work

October 21

Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

October 26

Canadian School Library Day

October 29

International Day of Care & Support

Click here to access the graphics



REGISTER TODAY!

TOGETHER FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION RALLIES

Saturday, October 24 - 1 pm ET

LONDON | OTTAWA | SUDBURY
THUNDER BAY | TORONTO



Register
here



Get Action
Resources
here

aeo Association des enseignantes et
des enseignants français-ontariens

OSBCU CSCSO
CUPE-SCFP

ETFO  **FEEO**

 **EWAO-ATEO**

 **OCE**

ONTARIO ENGLISH
**Catholic
Teachers**
ASSOCIATION

 **OPSEU
SEFPO**

 **OSSTF/FEESO**
ONTARIO'S PUBLIC EDUCATION

What is your union – OSSTF/FEESO – fighting for in this round of bargaining?

OSSTF/FEESO served notice on June 3rd to begin bargaining;

OSSTF/FEESO and other major education unions called on the government to begin bargaining early - they refused. Now our bargaining team is prepared to negotiate throughout the summer.

Our goal is to address challenges facing OSSTF/FEESO members and fight for the supports students and education workers need.

We heard from members and in central negotiations we will fight for:

Education Workers

- Safe, supportive, and healthy worksites to support the well-being of all.
- Working conditions that address recruitment and retention challenges with proper staffing.
- More trained and qualified education workers.
- Increased and timely access to special education assessments and follow-up supports.
- Secure, stable and sustainable jobs.
- Schools where students and workers can learn and work without fear of violence.

Teachers/Occasional Teachers

- Working conditions that attract and retain qualified teachers.
- Smaller class sizes.
- Supports to meet the diverse and increasingly complex needs of students.
- The elimination of mandatory e-learning.
- Safe, supportive, and healthy worksites to support the well-being of all.
- Schools where students and workers can learn and work without fear of violence.

Government funding has failed to keep pace with inflation, leaving Ontario schools \$6.5 billion behind where they were in 2018.

As a member of OSSTF/FEESO, here is what you can do:

As bargaining progresses, member solidarity will be a top priority. Governments pay attention when members are informed, engaged and prepared to unite together.

There will be local meetings about bargaining in the fall – plan to attend!

Join our campaign at **UNDERFUNDED.ca**, and share it with your colleagues, family, friends and neighbours.

Stay informed & watch for more communications about bargaining.

Take action at:



UNDERFUNDED.ca

