

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**

Together for the Year Ahead

As we begin a new school year, we know our members are returning to workplaces facing real and growing pressures. Across Ontario, teachers, education workers and support staff are being asked to do more with less, while students continue to feel the effects of underfunding, staffing shortages, larger class sizes and disappearing supports.

The road ahead will not be easy, but we are ready for it.

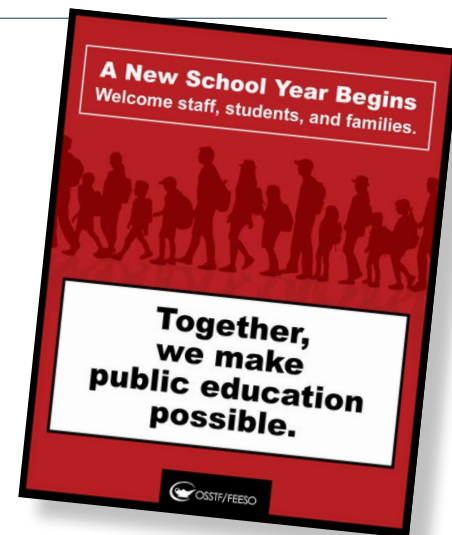
This fall, your Provincial Executive will be travelling across the province to meet directly with members, talk openly about where bargaining stands and, most importantly, listen. And we will continue to fight for the issues that matter most in all your workplaces from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary: job security, workload, class size, professional judgment, protection against contracting out, and the supports students need.

We are not doing this work alone. Together with our allies across publicly funded education, we are part of a movement of more than 250,000 education workers standing up for a strong public education system in Ontario.

Our strength has always come from our members. When we are informed, engaged and mobilized, we have the power to make real change happen.

In solidarity,

Martha Hradowy and the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive



Underfunded & Over It: We want your Story!

The [Underfunded & Over It Campaign](#) is inviting members like you to share how underfunding and challenging working and learning conditions affect you, your colleagues, and the students you support.

Selected stories will be read on camera by Ontario secondary school students. Their honest reactions will help members of the public understand the realities facing Ontario's publicly funded education system and what you're going through.

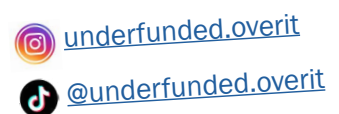
Ready to share your story?

These are some things to keep in mind:

- Your story may be shared in English, French, or American Sign Language (ASL) by an Ontario student and featured in a social media video.
- Keep it short and concise, max of 300 words.



Follow the campaign at:



- Focus on specific moments of underfunding and/or overwork.
- Do not include your name or details that could identify you, your worksite, school, colleagues, or students.

Note: Submitting a story does not guarantee that it will be featured. Every effort will be made to protect the identities of members, workplaces, schools, and students.

Visit [Underfunded.ca](https://www.underfunded.ca) to submit your story today.

Education Forum: The Podcast Episode 6 – Strikes 101

Associate General Secretary Dave Barrowclough joins host Allison Cillis for a conversation about strikes. We get your questions answered about a potential strike and dive into common misconceptions about the bargaining process. Listen now at www.underfunded.ca/podcast or wherever you get your favourite podcasts.

Sign up for the Underfunded & Over It campaign at www.Underfunded.ca and get ongoing updates. Listen, share, and subscribe to the podcast to help amplify the voices of teachers and education workers across the province.



Collective Bargaining Updates

Your Voice, Our Strength

Collective bargaining is moving forward, and member engagement remains critical as we work toward achieving a strong agreement for our members. Over the past several months, members have participated in surveys, attended information sessions, and received regular Bargaining Bulletins that have helped shape our priorities and strengthen our collective voice at the bargaining table. Member solidarity and engagement continue to be essential as negotiations progress. The Bargaining Bulletins are available in the [myOSSTF section](#) of the OSSTF/FEESO website.

Since bargaining began in June, OSSTF/FEESO has met with employer groups and government representatives to establish the framework for negotiations and address the first stage of the process: determining which issues belong at the central bargaining table and which issues should remain at the local level. As communicated in previous Bargaining Bulletins, the parties must reach agreement on central and local scope before exchanging proposals.

While progress has been made, agreement has not yet been reached on all central/local split items. As a result, the outstanding scope matters have been referred to the Ontario Labour Relations Board for determination. Until these decisions are made, there will continue to be limits on the issues that can formally move forward through the bargaining process. Members can be assured that OSSTF/FEESO is actively advocating to ensure that issues are negotiated at the most appropriate table and that the interests of members remain the priority throughout the process. Additionally, OSSTF/FEESO is working very closely with other education affiliates as it pertains to bargaining. Planning and working alongside our education partners helps to ensure strength and solidarity at the bargaining table.

Starting early in September and continuing through October, locals across the province will be hosting Bargaining Information Meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity for members to hear directly about the status of negotiations, understand the next steps in the bargaining process, and learn more about the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We encourage every member to participate. Stay informed, ask questions, and engage in conversations with your colleagues. The strength of our bargaining position depends on an informed, connected, and united membership. For more information, check out the Bargaining 101 articles at osstfupdate.ca.

OSSTF/FEESO's Bargaining Rights in the Headlines

President Martha Hradowy is leading the public conversation on the importance of protecting collective bargaining rights. Through media interviews and public commentary, she is highlighting the government's decision to halt bargaining, which resulted in OSSTF/FEESO referring the matter to the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB), and what these actions mean for members and publicly funded education.

Catch up on the latest media coverage by clicking on the links below.

- ▶ **Canadian Press:** [Students set to head back to school as new contract for Ontario teachers far off](#)
- ▶ **CP24:** [‘We are going to fight’: Ontario teachers’ unions mull strike action as bargaining talks stall](#)
- ▶ **Toronto Star:** [Scrap current bargaining system, high school teachers’ union urges](#)
- ▶ [Ontario education minister ‘optimistic’ deal with teachers can be reached as school year looms without a new contract](#)
- ▶ [Bargaining pause means Ontario teachers, education workers to start school year without contract](#)
- ▶ [Ontario picks vendor for new \\$750 teacher spending program. Critics say government ‘oblivious to how the system works’](#)
- ▶ **The Trillium:** [Ford government preparing ads that target teacher unions: leaked script](#)
- ▶ **TFO:** [Les négociations entre les syndicats et le gouvernement au point mort avant la rentrée](#)

Sovereignty and Social Justice

Reminder: Join the Grassy Narrows River Run

Members are invited to join the Grassy Narrows River Run in Toronto on September 23, 2026. The event will bring supporters together in solidarity with Grassy Narrows First Nation and its ongoing fight for justice.

The Provincial Executive, upon the advice of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Advisory Work Group, has endorsed the demands of Grassy Narrows First Nation and encourages members, locals, and Districts to demonstrate their support through public advocacy and participation in solidarity actions.



[Click here to RSVP to the Grassy Narrows River Run Rally – September 23, 2026](#)



September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, OSSTF/FEESO joins communities across the country in marking the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. This day honours the children who never returned home from residential schools, Survivors, their families, and the communities that continue to live with the ongoing impacts of colonialism, racism, and systemic discrimination.

Truth and reconciliation require more than remembrance on a single day. They require learning, reflection, accountability, and action throughout the year. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action remind us that reconciliation is a shared responsibility across governments, institutions, workplaces, schools, and communities. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and its Calls for Justice further call on all of us to confront ongoing colonial violence and support transformative change. Resources such as Land Back and From Risk to Resilience also challenge us to understand reconciliation through Indigenous rights, jurisdiction, consent, relationships to land, and climate justice.

For members and leaders, September 30 is an opportunity to take part in meaningful ways. Wear orange, but also take time to learn from Indigenous voices, attend local events or commemorations, share accurate resources, support Indigenous-led organizations and businesses, and create space for respectful reflection in schools, worksites, and communities. Leaders are encouraged to consider how their locals and worksites can embed reconciliation into ongoing practice—not only through statements, but through education, advocacy, policy, bargaining priorities, and solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

Take time to explore these resources to learn more and support reconciliation beyond September 30th:

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
- [Land Back – A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper](#)
- [From Risk to Resilience: Indigenous Alternatives to Climate Risk Assessment in Canada](#)
- [The Witness Blanket – Virtual Tour – Canadian Museum for Human Rights](#)

OSSTF/FEESO reaffirms our commitment to reconciliation, justice, and equity. We recognize that this commitment must be demonstrated through action: challenging anti-Indigenous racism, supporting the implementation of the Calls to Action and Calls for Justice, advocating for publicly funded education that tells the truth about Canada's history, and standing in solidarity with Indigenous communities in their pursuit of justice, healing, sovereignty, and a better future for all.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)—Buy Union Campaign

As workers across Canada face growing economic uncertainty driven by U.S. trade tariffs, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is encouraging Canadians to fight back by making conscious purchasing choices. The CLC's Buy Union campaign highlights products and services made by unionized workplaces, helping consumers support good jobs, strong communities, and a resilient Canadian economy. Every dollar spent on union-made products helps strengthen local economies and keep good jobs in Canada.

Choosing union-made products is a practical way for OSSTF/FEESO members to show solidarity with workers across the country. Whether you're grocery shopping, buying household products, or supporting local businesses, your purchasing decisions can help protect workers and their families during a challenging economic period.

Explore the [CLC Buy Union guide](#) and learn how you can support union jobs in your community.

OSSTF/FEESO Builds Connections at AMO 2026

OSSTF/FEESO participated in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2026 Conference and Trade Show for the first time, exhibiting collaboratively with the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA).



Held in Ottawa from August 16 to 19, the conference brought together more than 3,000 delegates representing Ontario's 444 municipalities. Member interactions at the exhibit provided an opportunity to raise awareness of OSSTF/FEESO, discuss issues affecting students, teachers and education workers, and hear municipal perspectives.

Municipal representatives expressed interest in stronger local collaboration on shared concerns. They also discussed challenges involving school board relationships, including reduced trustee involvement, centralized administration and limited municipal engagement.

A recent report based on anonymous feedback from 32 municipal chief administrative officers found concerns about the Ford government's approach to consultation, its treatment of dissent and what respondents described as pressure on municipalities to accept provincial decisions. The findings of this report were evident in many plenary sessions, keynotes, and the Ministers' Forum, or Bear Pit, which featured almost every member of the Ford government cabinet.

The OSSTF/FEESO delegation included Provincial Executive member and Treasurer Jeff Denys, and Dan Earle from the Communications/Political Action Department. The contacts established at AMO will support future outreach and political-action work. The experience expanded Federation engagement beyond traditional education-sector forums.



Professional Development and Resources

OSSTF/FEESO AQ Program: Course Registration and Course Writing Opportunities

Registration is open for the inaugural session of the OSSTF/FEESO Additional Qualifications (AQ) Program. The first session will run from October 1 to December 4, 2026. Registration closes September 21, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Course fees are \$650 and Active OSSTF/FEESO Members are eligible for a \$50 member discount through district voucher codes.

The Fall 2026 session includes Part 1, Part 2, and Specialist courses in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, Guidance and Career Education, and Special Education. Developed by experienced OSSTF/FEESO teacher members, the courses have been created by secondary teachers for secondary teachers and reflect the realities of teaching in Ontario Grade 9-12 classrooms.

To support promotion of the AQ Program, a Dropbox of resources have been shared with Teacher and Occasional Teacher Bargaining Unit Presidents. These resources include sample newsletter and email content, social media graphics and captions, key talking points, information about AQ course types and QECO rating statements,

district-specific voucher codes, required forms, and information about funding supports available for eligible First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies candidates.

The OSSTF/FEESO AQ Program will continue to develop more course offerings, with new course series in Addressing Anti-Black Racism, Cooperative Education, and Teaching English Language Learners planned for development during the 2026-2027 Federation year. Applications for course writers will be accepted until September 21, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., with course development scheduled to begin in October. Please see D/BU #010/2026-2027 for further details/information.

For complete program information, registration details, and course writer applications, members can visit the AQ Program website at aq.osstf.on.ca or contact the AQ Administrator at aq-admin@osstf.ca.

Build Your Skills and Strengthen the Federation

Union Training Academy (UTA) provides local leaders with practical training, tools, and resources to strengthen their skills and support members in their Districts and Bargaining Units.

Whether you are new to a leadership role or looking to build on your experience, there are opportunities to learn, connect, and strengthen your union leadership throughout the Federation year.

Click here to access the UTA SCHEDULE



Member Engagement

WestJet Picket Line—August 2, 2026



On August 2, OSSTF/FEESO stood in solidarity with CUPE members on the WestJet picket line at Toronto Pearson Airport.

Labour College of Canada Photos



OSSTF/FEESO members participated in the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) 2026 Labour College of Canada (LCC) Certificate Program. The LCC program is a labour studies and leadership program for labour leaders and active union members.

Union Leadership Academy



Union Leadership Academy (ULA), bringing together over 250 Bargaining Unit Presidents, Chief Negotiators, and local leaders for several days of high-level training designed to build strength and solidarity, with an emphasis on bargaining skills and member engagement. Highlights included Keynote Speaker, Jitu Brown, and an affiliate-wide panel with 7 provincial union presidents, with a message of solidarity as we head into a tough round of bargaining.



Summer of solidarity

Highlights

Province-wide DAY OF ACTION to defend publicly funded education together
September 16, 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

XVII Trinational Conference in Defense of Public Education
November 13 to November 15, 2026, Toronto



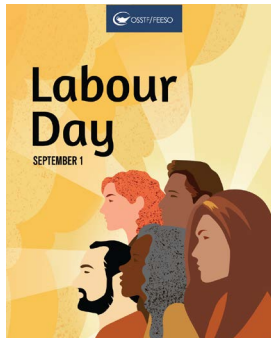
D/BU Memos Issued in August

*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 August here.](#)

004	Promotion of OSSTF-FEESO Additional Qualification Program (English Only)	010	OSSTF/FEESO Additional Qualifications (AQ) Course Writers (English Only)
005	Benevolent Council Application	011	2026-2027 Educational Services Professional Development Workshops
006	Labour Day 2026 Workers Together: For Our Jobs, Our Rights, and Strong Public Education	012	Professional Development in Response to Employer Discipline - 2026-2027 (Presidents ONLY)
007	Appointment of Director of Educational Services, Professional Services Division	013	Grassy Narrows River Run September 2026
008	Job Posting – Executive Assistant	014	Appointment of Executive Assistant
009	Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Officer (EARAO) Triennial Conference October 23-24, 2026	015	Governance Review Committee

Dates of Significance in September

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



September 7

Labour Day

September 8

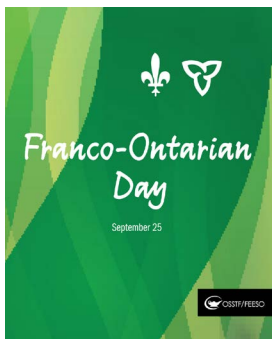
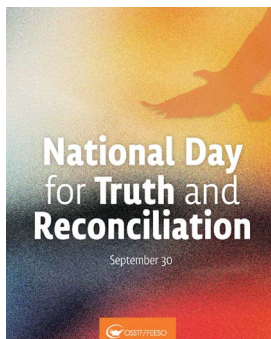
International Literacy Day

September 25

Jour des Franco-Ontariens et des Franco-Ontariennes

September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)



Click here to access the graphics.



Province-wide

DAY OF ACTION

to defend publicly funded education together!

**Wednesday,
September 16**

#OntEdUnited



Association des enseignantes et
des enseignants francophones

ETFO



FEEO



EWAO-ATEO



Catholic
Teachers
ASSOCIATION



OSBCU + CSCSO
CUPE-SCFP

OSSTF / FEESO

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 \$6.4 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

