



CUPE  
EDUCATION  
WORKERS

**Town hall  
call: recap**

# THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

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**June 2019**

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Town Hall call on Thursday, June 13. For those who weren't able to call in, I am sending this bulletin as a summary of the points covered.

Locals are welcome to use this bulletin when talking to CUPE members in upcoming membership meetings, as well as when speaking to media and community allies when promoting our roles and the services that we provide.

## **Central bargaining**

Our OSBCU Bargaining Committee met representatives of the Crown and the Council of Trustees Association (CTA) on May 15 and 27, when we were able to agree on the ground rules and scope of central bargaining. We meet again on June 27 and 28. We have not exchanged proposals yet.

## **Scope of central and local bargaining**

CUPE school board coordinator Darcie McEathron took call participants through the scope of the Central Bargaining.

The terms of the scope of bargaining were jointly released to CUPE Local presidents, national staff and school board directors on June 6. Local presidents were asked to share with their bargaining teams.

This distribution of the scope document triggered the 15 days for the local parties to meet and commence local bargaining, as outlined in Section 17 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Local presidents and staff were also sent a copy of the central dispute process form. In the event that either a local or a school board believes an item tabled at the local level rightly belongs at the central table, either local party may file a central scope dispute on the form provided. The central bodies (OSBCU, CTA and Crown) will discuss, decide on the matter and advise the local parties.

## Coordinated Language

I reviewed the coordinated language that was provided to Local presidents and national staff. This document was sent on June 6, along with the scope of central bargaining document. Locals were advised that many may already have the coordinated language in their collective agreement.

Negotiation teams were asked to review the coordinated language with the staff representative and amend existing language to include any piece that may be missing. If the local collective agreement does not contain any of the coordinated language, we ask that you include it in totality.

## Bill 124

Mona Staples, CUPE legal staff assigned to OSBCU, reviewed Bill 124, *Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act*, 2019. The bill was introduced June 5, 2019 and passed first reading. However, it is not currently law.

Should the Bill pass into law, it will impose a three-year moderation period on all public sector workers (excluding those employed by municipalities). During this period, wages and compensation (such as benefits and allowances) will be capped at 1% per 12-month period. This restraint will apply to wage, benefits, allowances, and both discretionary and non-discretionary payments.

Further information, including analysis from Mona and a memo from Joe Matasic, Ontario Director of CUPE and Fred Hahn, President of CUPE Ontario, has been sent to locals.

## Next steps

It is important to understand that Bill 124 is not a done deal and we should not let ourselves be defeated.

From actions taken by the Ontario Autism Coalition and Toronto mayor John Tory, we have seen that the PC government can be moved – but it requires hands-on mobilization.

To fight Bill 124, we will need our members engaging the public and applying pressure to the MPPs. Mobilization of our membership will be key. To that end there are a few key things taking place:

- Mobilization Phase 2 training sessions (English and French) – including strike preparation – are happening throughout the province in July, Registration forms have been sent to Local presidents and dates are on OSBCU.ca/CSCSO.ca. Be sure to register soon – we cannot guarantee that courses will run again.
- Leadership meetings are taking place with CUPE Ontario and the OSBCU – dates and times have been sent to Local presidents and you can also find them on our Facebook page and OSBCU.ca/CSCSO.ca.
- Leadership meeting regarding potential job action will take place August 11 at the Toronto Airport Holiday Inn; registration is now open.
- Locals are encouraged to send “Save the Date” notices to members regarding possible strike votes in the first two weeks of September.
- OSBCU now has Mobilization teams whose members include: OSBCU mobilization co-ordinator Mike Maguire; CUPE national staff, OSBCU Mobilization Officers; and OSBCU campaign personnel. The team will be available throughout the summer to work with locals to ensure we are engaging members, public and MPPs.

We will be continuing to work throughout the summer months. Please ensure that you are able to contact and connect with your membership and share information as it is received.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

In solidarity,



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