

## **A message from the president of OSBCU as the summer winds down.**

Brothers, Sisters & Friends

Labour Day weekend is upon us. As I sit here writing this, I am amazed not only at how fast this summer has gone by, but as well the amount of amazing work accomplished by our 55,000 members.

In the last two months, we have participated in leadership meetings, MPP visits, community rallies and member outreach activities. We have seen our members speak truth to power at every opportunity and reach out to community allies who will support us in our upcoming struggles. We started the summer with the mantra that it would not be business as usual. As we return to the school year, the fruits of our labour are beginning to show and multiply.

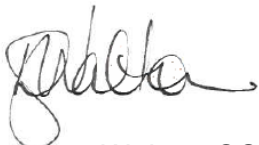
As we settle into the routine of the school year, I encourage all members to reach out to their local executive and ensure that your contact information is correct. Take the time to read your collective agreement. Although the current collective agreement expires August 31, 2019, the language (with the exception of dated Letters of Understanding) continues to apply. It is important that our members are complying with their collective agreement – it is language that has been agreed upon by all parties and outlines what benefits and responsibilities our members enjoy.

Over the next two weeks, strike votes are happening throughout the province, it is imperative that members attend the strike meetings being held by their local. These meetings will outline the current state of the bargaining and the OSBCU action plan as well as provide opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns. Your vote is your voice and we need to speak loud and clear to the government and to your school board trustees– we will not accept concessions and our members need gains. Your strike vote locations can be found on our website [www.osbcu.ca](http://www.osbcu.ca) [www.cscso.ca](http://www.cscso.ca)

I thank everyone for the hard work and commitment over these summer months. We know that we have many challenges ahead of us but together we can and will ensure that we achieve the best collective agreement and protect services for our students, schools and communities.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable back to school (some of our locals are already back into routines). I will see many of you in the upcoming weeks.

In Solidarity,



Laura Walton, OSBCU President

MU:NZ/COPE491