

September 23, 2019

CUPE
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**BARGAINING
UPDATE
2019
Bulletin # 12**

To: Local Presidents and Executives, Bargaining Committees and Membership.
***** Please share with CUPE local members only *****

Your central bargaining team spent the weekend in negotiations with the Council of Trustees' Associations (CTA) and the provincial government, with the assistance of mediator William Kaplan,

In total, we had six days straight of very hard bargaining. The team always put members' priorities at the forefront of our decisions and we did everything we could to reach a deal. We had a skilled mediator – even endorsed by the Minister of Education himself - but the parties remain far apart on key issues.

No further mediation dates are scheduled at this time and that means preparations continue to have CUPE education workers ready for job action on September 30.

Here's what's happening this week in the lead up to job action:

- last sessions for strike prep training and picket captain training are taking place
- locals will review and refine the plans (confidential for now) about what job action will look like at their boards and in their schools
- local presidents are finalizing their strike plans and developing picket line protocols
- the media blackout has been lifted
- CUPE/OSBCU will be in a position to give its five days' notice to the province and CTA on Wednesday, 25 September, which will put CUPE education workers in a legal strike position on Monday, September 30

Your central bargaining team will communicate and provide further details to locals about this deadline at the same time.

Finally, thanks to every local and every member who has sent words of encouragement to the central bargaining team. Your good wishes and the confidence you express in us will help to ensure that we reach an agreement that protects high-quality education services for students and delivers dignity and respect for education workers.

In Solidarity,



Laura Walton
President, OSBCU



Darcie McEathron
Ontario School Board Coordinator, CUPE

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