

Special Bulletin

September 30, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions Possible Contract Extension and Bill 115 Charter Challenge Remedy Special Bulletin Issued September 30, 2016

1. Has OSSTF/FEESO already agreed to extend the current collective agreement (with modifications)?

No. The motions passed by Provincial Council requested the Provincial Executive to enter into exploratory discussions and approved a process for negotiation and ratification of a possible extension if the discussions are successful.

2. Does OSSTF/FEESO entering into these exploratory discussions mean we are foregoing the normal bargaining process?

If the discussions are successful, it could lead to an extension of the current collective agreement under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA)*; therefore delaying the next round of normal bargaining.

If the discussions are unsuccessful, we will engage in the bargaining process as normal, based on the expiration date of the current collective agreement and the notice to bargain provisions.

3. How are collective agreement extension talks linked to the Bill 115 Charter Challenge remedy discussions?

While the talks may occur simultaneously, they are not necessarily interdependent. We believe there are 4 possible outcomes:

- Agreement on both an extension to the current collective agreement and Bill 115 Charter Challenge remedy
- Agreement on an extension to the current collective agreement only
- Agreement on a Bill 115 Charter Challenge remedy only
- No agreement on either an extension to the current collective agreement or on a Bill 115 Charter Challenge remedy

4. Does engaging in this process limit our ability to move forward if the discussions are unsuccessful?

If there is no agreement on the Bill 115 Charter Challenge remedy, we would return to court for a ruling.

If there is no agreement on an extension to the current collective agreement, we would conduct negotiations as usual.

5. Is the government engaging with other affiliates or unions in this process at tables separate from an OSSTF/FEESO table?

We do not know how other affiliates or unions will proceed but do know that the government has approached them.

6. Are the school boards involved in these discussions?

The school boards would be involved in some capacity in possible collective agreement extension discussions but specifics are unknown at this time.

7. What is the advantage of entering into possible extension discussions as opposed to the process outlined in the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act* (SBCBA)?

We think it is in our members' best interest to explore all opportunities but the scope of what may be available will remain unknown until we enter exploratory discussions.

8. How can I learn more about this topic?

The Provincial Executive is in the process of scheduling information town hall teleconferences in early October for all members employed by school boards. As soon as details are available, the information will be forwarded to members.

Please frequently check the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF/FEESO website for updated information.