

Media Release

For Immediate Release: Thursday, November 14, 2019

Ontario's Students and Education Workers Deserve a Fair Deal

This September, Ontarians saw the initial effects of Doug Ford's cuts to education, and across the province, those impacts have been staggering. His plan to "modernize education" is turning back the clock on publicly-funded education in our province.

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) has been in negotiations with the provincial government for months, looking for an agreement that restores adequate funding to the school system, provides a fair and reasonable deal for education workers, and protects the learning environment for students.

In Peel, these cuts have had a devastating impact on our work force, with a loss of 63 permanent teaching positions. These caring adults are no longer there to support our students. They are no longer available to provide their expertise or to put their time toward helping the students who need it most. The removal of these workers also directly affects our local businesses and economy.

OSSTF/FEESO is asking to have funding restored to Ontario's public education system and negotiate a fair deal that protects students and workers.

Our proposals are fair, reasonable, and good for education in Ontario. However, the Ford government continues to stall and come to the bargaining table with no new offers. They are fixated on cutting services and programs, while also moving worker salaries below the rate of inflation. How is that fair and reasonable?

One thing is certain. Under Ford's education plan, Ontario's students and education workers, as well as the economy, will suffer. The effects will be long lasting and will impact the whole province.

It's time for our government to listen to the people of Ontario and come to the bargaining table with proposals that enhance, rather than attack, our world-class education system.

OSSTF District 19 Media Contact:

Andrew Sobolewski
President, OSSTF District 19
Teacher Bargaining Unit
905-564-7255
asobolewski@osstfd19.ca