

## COVID-19 Pandemic Information Update

### Meeting with Minister of Labour

Yesterday OSSTF/FEESO President Harvey Bischof and General Secretary Pierre Côté, along with legal counsel and representatives from the three other major education unions, met with the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills development to address significant health and safety concerns surrounding the reopening of schools in September. The attached communique, which is being distributed to all 190,000 education workers and teachers represented by the four major education unions, summarizes that meeting, the concerns raised by the four unions, and next steps.

### A summary of information, messages and media from OSSTF/FEESO

The following represents a summary of the information and messages OSSTF/FEESO provincial office issued to members between August 18-24, 2020 around school reopening plans, as well as a small sample of the media coverage currently available online from provincial leaders, local leaders, and members.

### OSSTF/FEESO Information to Members

Reopening of Schools – Report on Ministry of Education Discussions – [Issue 4](#)  
August 21, 2020

COVID-19 Update (located in myOSSTF / maFEESO) – [Issue 16 and 17](#)  
August 19, 2020

## Print and Web Media

### *General Articles of Interest*

#### **Lindsay Advocate**

[Catholic principals join call for slower re-opening](#)

August 23, 2020

"I have never seen all three principals' federations, all four teachers' unions and CUPE agree on anything of substance. This unity is seldom seen in the topsy-turvy world of educational politics in Ontario."

#### **National Post**

[Bigger class could mean up to five times the COVID-19 infections, Canadian study suggests](#)

August 22, 2020

#### **New York Times**

[Will It Be Safe to Return to School?](#)

August 21, 2020

#### **Our Windsor Today/Toronto Star**

[#SafeSeptember more like "stressed-out-September" says new poll of parents and their feelings on sending their kids back to school](#)

August 20, 2020

### *Coverage including OSSTF/FEESO*

#### **The Province**

[Adam: As schools reopen, we must get a handle on supply teachers](#)

August 21, 2020

**Toronto Sun**

[Politics at play as unions oppose back-to-school-plan-Ford](#)

August 19, 2020

**London Free Press**

[Critics vent about air quality as COVID-19 shuttered schools prepare to open](#)

August 19, 2020

**99.9 The Bay (Thunder Bay)**

[Teachers Sill Press for Reopening Changes](#)

August 19, 2020

**610 AM – CKTB**

[Ontario Secondary Teacher's Federation Chief has a plan to put supply teachers in a bubble](#)

August 19, 2020

**National Observer**

[Back to school looms what legal options do Ontario's teachers have?](#)

August 24, 2020

**Radio**

**800 AM iHeart Radio - Morning Drive**

[Back to school poll \(Harvey Bischof audio clip\)](#)

August 19, 2020

## **Local D/BU Media Coverage**

### **Toronto Star**

[Halton trustees urge province to end highly confusing back to school plan](#) Halton trustees urge August 23, 2020

### **Ottawa Citizen**

[Low pay, uncertain hours, no sick leave. Education's other workers face a return to the classroom](#)

August 22, 2020

### **Niagara Falls Review**

[Many TDSB adult learners are essential workers and parents heading back to school for them is a disaster waiting to happen](#)

August 21, 2020

### **AM200 CKLW**

[Local OSSTF President shell shocked by secondary level changes at GECDSB](#) Local OSSTF

August 20, 2020

### **580 CFRA – iHeart Radio**

[Back to school deadline approaching for families in Upper Canada District School Board](#)

August 19, 2020

### **London Free Press**

[Critics vent about air quality as COVID-19 shuttered schools prepare to reopen](#)

August 19, 2020

**CBC**

[Supply teachers in the dark about upcoming school year](#)

August 19, 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to unfold, OSSTF/FEESO will be issuing frequent updates to provide members with as much pertinent information as possible.

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