

November 2019 Update Newsletter

CUPE

Local 997

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UNIONS WRITE JOINT LETTER RE: OMERS GOVERNANCE CHANGES

CUPE Ontario has recently been made aware of several proposed by-law amendments that would fundamentally change OMERS, weakening the voices of workers and their unions. Click [here](#) to read a joint letter issued by the Employee-side Sponsors of OMERS in response.

With less than 3 weeks' notice and no consultation with Sponsor Organizations (e.g. CUPE), we have been informed that the OMERS Sponsor Corporation (SC) Board is scheduled to vote on these amendments on November 14th. CUPE Ontario and the other Employee Sponsors of OMERS have requested that this vote be deferred until more information is provided to us for consideration and consultation.

Should these by-law amendments pass, the OMERS SC Board would no longer be appointed by and accountable to Sponsor Organizations and their members – like you. The OMERS SC Board is responsible for determining plan benefits and contributions and some of these proposed changes are unprecedented in Canada. No other pension plans have attempted to take away the representation rights of workers in the way that is being proposed here. These changes could undermine the political viability and sustainability of OMERS as a jointly sponsored pension plan, where unions and employers have equal voice.

CUPE Ontario has always been, and will continue to be, a leader in the fight to protect our OMERS. We will keep you informed of developments and opportunities to take action.

[Read the Joint Letter](#)



Thinking of retirement in the next 5 years?

Come out to our next Retirement Workshop hosted by OTIP being held at the Lindsay Days Inn, November 14th from 4:30 to 7:30. [Click here](#) to download the flyer

Preregistration is required and space is limited so please register now online at <https://www.otip.com/events>
The flyer can also be downloaded from www.cupe997.ca

Central Agreement is Ratified

79% of CUPE represented Education Workers from across the Province voted to ratify the Tentative Collective Agreement. Now the work starts locally to implement the terms of the Central Agreement. We will be meeting shortly with the TLDSB to discuss what permanent positions will be created with the money negotiated at the central table to create permanent CUPE jobs. Our goal is to get these positions in place as soon as possible to get our members working again in permanent positions. We believe the TLDSB shares our sense of urgency. To review the CBC article about Central Ratification click below: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/cupe-province-ratification-votes-announcement-1.5346428>

EA Mid-Year Posting/Transfer

For Permanent Educational Assistants:

Educational Assistants working in a temporary position without a permanent placement or EAs interested in posting to a new worksite, midyear, must complete the Educational Assistant Information form. The placement effective date this year will be January 31, 2020. If you complete and submit the Educational Assistant Information Form by the deadline, your application will be included in the Posting process. When the TLDSB sends out the EA Information Form this year, those interested in changing schools should only note those schools that they are prepared to post into. If there is a position available at a worksite that was identified on the EA Information Form and you have the qualifications, ability and the seniority, you will be placed in that position at that EA posting meeting held in Mid-January. Any EAs wishing to change schools mid-year must submit the form (which will be forthcoming) no later than January 1st.

For CUPE Ontario Members Wanting to Connect with OMERS:

OMERS is the pension plan for almost 125,000 members of CUPE in Ontario. It is our pension plan and plan members have the right to have their concerns heard by OMERS. For members looking to contact OMERS, there are several ways to directly connect.

Member Services can be reached, toll-free at 1-800-387-0813, or by calling 416-369-2444.

OMERS has a [Facebook Page](#) which can be found by searching for @OMERSpensionplan in Facebook. By following the page, members can also comment on posts.

OMERS recently launched an [Instagram Page](#) which can be found, followed and commented on by searching @WeAreOMERS.

Remember, OMERS only exists because of the hundreds of thousands of workers, many of them CUPE Ontario members, who contribute their hard-earned wages so they can have a decent pension when they retire. It is our plan and our right to give feedback and be heard.

Local Bargaining with the TLDSB

Our CUPE Local 997 Bargaining Committee has so far secured the following dates for local bargaining:

November 19, 20, 26, 27, 28 & December 2, 3, 17, 18

We will be exchanging bargaining briefs with the employer on November 19th which will commence the bargaining process.

Our Bargaining Committee:

Charlotte Monardo – CUPE National Staff Representative

William Campbell – President

Lisa Wokral – Vice President

Kirk MacFarlane – Chief Maintenance Steward

Karen Harford – Chief Custodial Steward

Lianne Barley – Chief Office Clerical Steward

Jeff K. Francis – Chief Technical Steward

Debbie Gillan – Chief Educational Assistant Steward

TLDSB Inclement Weather Policy

With winter weather here, please take a minute to review the board's inclement weather procedure ([click here](#)) so you know what is expected of you when buses are cancelled. Requirements under the board's procedure vary depending on employment status. It is also important to know that if you are unable to attend on a bus cancellation day due to the weather conditions you generally will not be paid unless you complete the online appeals process by 4 p.m. on the second business day following the inclement weather day. This online form can be found on ourdock.ca under Employee Services or by clicking the link below:

<https://goo.gl/forms/MDtYLHAYmGjk4c9v2>



How to protect your family from deadly, invisible gases

Radon and carbon monoxide are poisonous gases that are odourless, colourless and tasteless, making them threats to the safety of your home. Exposure to high levels of radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, causing over 3,200 Canadian deaths each year¹. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisonings in North America. By following the steps below and taking the proper precautions, you can help protect your home and family from these deadly gases.

To learn more, click here:

www.otipinsurance.com/article51

Newly Elected Executive and Officers

We are very pleased to welcome the following members to our Executive and Officers elected at the October RGM.

Jeff K. Francis – Chief Technical Steward

Rob Parish – Trustee

Susan Sainsbury – Trustee

Welcome and thank you to all for putting your name forward to stand for fairness and strengthen our Union.