



### Important Dates

<p><b>General Membership Meeting</b> <i>Last scheduled meeting this school year</i></p>	<p><b>Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am</b> Lindsay Adult Education &amp; Training Centre 220 Angeline St. South, Lindsay</p>
<p><b>LTD info meetings</b> <a href="#">Click here for flyer</a></p>	<p><b>Saturday May 11</b> in Bracebridge @ Muskoka Falls PS and Lindsay at I.E. Weldon SS (cafeteria)</p>

### Personal Compassionate Leave

Permanent staff have access to paid personal time for a set of reasons set out in Article 19.08 of the OCTEA Collective Agreement and 19.07 of the CM collective Agreement.

The set of reasons for paid personal days includes such events as attending the needs of an ill or injured member of the immediate family, attending with a family member to a doctor's office or hospital, moving of the employee's principal residence and attending a wedding. For the full list of reasons please refer to our Collective Agreement found on our website at: <https://cupe997.ca/resources/collective-agreement/>

### We are the Power of Public Education

This week "We are the Power of Public Education" stickers will be sent to each CUPE 997 Worksite Communicator for distribution. Members are encouraged to display their sticker on a personal item such as a water bottle, lunch bag, laptop or agenda. Anywhere that will be seen in the workplace or in public. The fun part is to take pictures of you and your colleagues with your stickers and post them on social media using hashtags #OSBCU #CUPE997 #powerofpubliceducation

Also send pictures to [info@cupe997.ca](mailto:info@cupe997.ca)

### National Day of Mourning



*Karen Harford, CUPE 997 Custodial Chief Steward placing the CUPE 997 wreath at the Lindsay, National Day of Mourning ceremony alongside other unions and politicians.*

**On April 28, the National Day of Mourning** for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job, we remember all the workers we have lost. On this day, CUPE also joins

with the Canadian Labour Congress and other unions around the county to demand that all governments enforce the laws enshrined in the Criminal Code and occupational health and safety laws.

Every day in Canada, workers lose their lives on the job. Their deaths are preventable and should not happen. It boggles the mind that we lose almost 1000 workers every year.

### Release of Grants for Student Needs (GSNs)

On Friday April 26 the Ministry of Education released their GSNs for the upcoming school year (2019-2020).

The GSNs provide us with further indication of the impact of the Ministry of Education's budget on education workers across the province.

Dan Crow, will be doing a more detailed analysis but a top level review shows:

- Per-pupil funding will be \$12,246 in 2019-20, a drop from \$12,299 in 2018-19. This is in absolute terms and has not been adjusted for inflation
- \$630 million cut from the Pupil Foundation Grant
- 230 million cut to Learning Opportunities Grant
- a cut to School Board Administration and Governance Grant

Clearly this is devastating news for public education and the services that our members provide. As we move forward, we need to be continuously speaking about our services and their importance in our communities and for our students especially in light of the recent cuts in other sectors and areas across the province.



## Strike Preparation Form

Earlier this month we distributed a form to be completed by all CUPE members including Supply, Temporary and Permanent employees.

The form is designed to share some basic information about yourself so that in case we find ourselves in a strike position in the fall we are fully prepared and can in turn quickly provide you the most up to date information.

We have received well over 300 responses and this is a very impressive number of responses in a week however:

### Do We Have your response?

If not please go to the link here to complete the form.

<https://forms.gle/Z158ASR82vD9XZWU6>

## Strike Pay – Did you know?

We will not be in a strike position until at least after our Collective Agreements expire on August 31, 2019, if at all. If our local is on strike and a work stoppage is called, if you participate in the strike by picketing you will:

- Receive strike pay of \$60 per day from the first day that you picket to a maximum of \$300 per week.
- Strike pay is tax free, money in your pocket!
- Health and Dental Benefit costs including your single or family monthly premium share are paid for by CUPE while on strike

**The best way to avoid a strike is to be prepared for one.** The Strike Preparation form is one way your local is working to avoid a strike. If you have not completed it please do so now.

<https://forms.gle/Z158ASR82vD9XZWU6>

## LTD Information meetings

LTD rates have spiked over the past 2 years.

We now have options to reduce the cost of LTD through benefit reductions so we have organized 2 LTD information meetings to allow members with LTD coverage through the board plan to find out about the options to reduce the benefit while reducing the cost.

The meetings are scheduled for Saturday May 11, 2019 in Bracebridge (Muskoka Falls PS) and Lindsay (I.E. Weldon SS).

We encourage all Permanent Staff who have LTD coverage through the board owned LTD plan to attend one of these meetings. Members with LTD coverage will be able to vote for one of the options presented in the days following the meeting.

[Please click the link here to see the flyer or go to our website and click the link under Updates.](#)



## Preparing for Retirement? 5 Tips You Need to Follow

Are you thinking about retiring soon? As your career comes to an end and a new phase of your life begins, you want to ensure that you're prepared to make the most of the new opportunities and experiences that retirement brings.

Follow these five tips to make sure you're on track for a fulfilling retirement:

[www.OTIPinsurance.com/article39](http://www.OTIPinsurance.com/article39)

