



Thank you for all of the pics of CUPE members supporting our Teacher colleagues while they strike for improvements to Education in Ontario.

Pictured here are strikers and supporters @ Muskoka Beechgrove PS in Gravenhurst.

Our Federation (ETFO and OSSTF) colleagues continue to fight for more services in schools, increased funding, safer schools and to keep the status quo on class sizes.

Both federations are also looking for increases in wages. CUPE members are encouraged to continue to support ETFO and OSSTF. Their fight is our fight!

Important Dates

February 10 & 11	Local Bargaining continues with Ministry Conciliator
Saturday February 22	Membership meetings to review with the membership the current state / status of Local Collective Bargaining. Meetings will be held at Muskoka Falls PS Archie Stouffer ES IE Weldon SS Times to be determined
Saturday March 7	General Membership meeting at Muskoka Falls PS start time is 10:00am

Local Priorities funding (LPF) – aka Investments in System Priorities & Education Workers Protection Fund (EWPF)

Laura Walton, President of OSBCU says
 “Too many school boards are following the lead of the Council of Trustee Association and the Minister of Education and are choosing politics over the needs of our children”

The local and OSBCU continue to fight for what was agreed to at the Central Table. The LPF and EWPF funding which amounts to well in excess of \$1 million per year for each year of the 3 year agreement is to be used exclusively to create permanent CUPE positions.

Click the image below to listen to the CUPE Press conference at Queen’s Park given by OSBCU President Laura Walton and CUPE Ontario President, Fred Hahn on January 27. The press conference is followed by a Q&A.



Tell OMERS: don't touch guaranteed indexing!

Over the last two years, some members of the OMERS Sponsors Corporation (SC) Board have attempted to remove the guaranteed indexing of your pension. So far, CUPE Ontario, allies, and plan members have been able to defeat these attempts. Unfortunately, there is a good chance that this year another attempt to remove your pension’s guaranteed indexing will be made.

Let’s be clear. The OMERS plan is doing well and when you retire you deserve to have a pension that keeps up with inflation.

Please take a moment and send this email to OMERS CEO Michael Rolland and other members of the SC board.

[Click to send OMERS a message:](#)

Changes are coming to your EWBT

Do you work permanent hours between 15 and 17.5 hours per week?



The administrator for the EWBT Health and Dental Plan, OTIP will be sending out a pre-enrolment communication to permanent staff / members who will now qualify for benefits (working 15-17.5 hours per week) as of March 1, 2020. This communication will be sent around February 15.

With this reduced threshold, members with Permanent status working between 15 and 17.5 hours per week will be able to receive EWBT benefits at the same cost in effect for staff in permanent full time positions.

This communication to members in this situation will be customized as follows:

1. For members who have not enrolled in benefits (due to the previous 50% premium share) (new 4% share)
2. For members who are enrolled on benefits to advise of the decrease in premium share as well as provide them with the opportunity to change their status (i.e. from single to family coverage).

The initial communication noted above will be sent by email as well as by Canada Post to all affected members and will include "Benefits at a Glance" summarizing the benefit coverage.

The communication will allow members to go online and elect coverage or change coverage. Members affected by the change will have until March 31st to enrol in coverage. After this date coverage changes may be declined.

Also the EWBT will be improving other benefits as outlined in their January Newsletter. Some services like Physiotherapy, Chiropractor, Dental coverage and more will have increased coverage limits effective March 1, 2020.

The full list of plan improvements can be found by [clicking here](#). For more information please visit the EWBT website at: <https://www.cupe-ewbt.ca/home>

CUPE 997 STUDENT BURSARIES (Deadline for applications April 15, 2020)

Attention 997 Members who have a son/daughter (dependent) who will be attending College/University in the Fall of 2020.

From CUPE 997 By-Laws – Section 22 - #9

"On an annual basis 2 bursaries in the amount of \$500.00 each shall be allotted to a son/daughter/ dependent of a CUPE 997 Member in good standing."

Recipients shall be students who are entering or returning to full time studies at an accredited post-secondary public Canadian college or university." (Recipients are paid in 2 installments of \$250.00 each, upon proof of completion of each of 2 semesters).

Online application forms can be found by [clicking here](#) or by visiting our website at www.cupe997.ca > Resources > Student Bursary.

The random draw will take place at the May Regular General Meeting.



If I'm not at fault in a car accident, do I have to pay my deductible?

If you're in a car accident and your insurance provider determines that you were not at fault, one of the first questions you probably have is "If it wasn't my fault, do I have to pay a deductible?" Although each situation is unique and there is no quick and easy answer, here are a few factors that can determine whether you will have to pay.

For more information, visit www.otipinsurance.com/article59