



CUPE  
EDUCATION  
WORKERS

## THE POWER OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

March 19, 2020

MEMBERS'  
BULLETIN  
UPDATE

Dear CUPE education workers in Ontario:

We are communicating with you because of the situation that we find ourselves in as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the consequences for CUPE education workers.

First, I want to thank members for their calm and patience as our sector lives through these unprecedented times.

Information is coming in daily. It is difficult to navigate through all the information that is coming in from many channels. We as OSBCU leaders are striving to provide the most up to date information which impacts our members lives.

I also want to thank our local leaders for their hard work. This March Break provides anything but rest and relaxation.

Thank you for keeping in touch, reaching out to OSBCU and providing information as needed and ensuring information is going out to your members

Thank you too to CUPE staff who continue to provide ongoing guidance and ensure that we have the most up to date information.

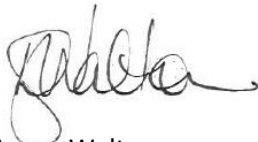
**What we know:** – Ontario is under a state of emergency – bars, restaurants, day cares, school, theatres are all closed. Schools across the country are closed for a variety of lengths. At this point permanent staff is being paid. We are working hard to ensure that these provisions extend to casuals and long-term assignments. We are hearing of successes daily across the province

**What OSBCU is doing:** Members of OSBCU's executive is meeting once a week via telephone and we communicate frequently by emails. I met with Ontario NDP Education Critic Marit Stiles this week and will meet with CUPE sector chairs.

And in an unprecedented move, the leaders of Ontario's education unions (CUPE/OSBCU, OSSTF, FEESO, ETFO, OECTA, EWAO et OCEW) agreed to a joint letter to the Minister of Education, demanding a seat at the table when there is planning taking place regarding schools and the fight against COVID-19.

**What's next:** It's important to not panic. We will share information about our plans as quickly as we can. Maintain social distancing and if you are returning from vacation out of country, please ensure you are self isolating for the required 14 days. Stay calm. Check your board and union emails daily. Essentially we are on home assignment from our employers; we are not on vacation period.

Courage and solidarity!



Laura Walton  
President, OSBCU

Email: [lwalton@osbcu.ca](mailto:lwalton@osbcu.ca)

MU:NZ/COPE491