



## "WHY VOTE YES"

### Important Upcoming Dates

<b>Strike Vote information virtual webinars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday September 22 @ 6:30pm</li> <li>Friday September 23 @ 11:00am</li> <li>To Register: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Eli2YaqCQHil8RFZfz7S9A">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Eli2YaqCQHil8RFZfz7S9A</a></li> </ul>
<b>Strike Vote in-person information sessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IE Weldon</b> – Lindsay – Cafeteria                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sat Sept 24<sup>th</sup> - 9am to 11am</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Muskoka Falls PS</b> – Bracebridge – Gym                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sat Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 3pm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>When can we vote?</b>	<b>The strike vote</b> will be an electronic vote open from September 23 at 12:01am to October 2 @ 6:00pm
<b>Local Bargaining</b>	<b>Our 1<sup>st</sup> Local Bargaining date is Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please wear your purple shirt on <u>Education Worker Wednesdays!</u></b>
<b>General Membership Meetings 2022-2023</b>	<p><b>Sat. October 22, 2022 @ 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sat. February 25, 2023 – 10 a.m.</b>  <b>Sat. May 6, 2023 – 10 a.m.</b></p> <p>More information about location will be shared shortly.</p>

### We are in Bargaining! Let's get ready together.

Our Collective Agreements expired on August 31, 2022. We are now in what is called the Statutory Freeze period. During this period the employer cannot change any working conditions or Collective Agreement provisions unless a strike or lockout begins. The employer would also need to seek and receive permission from the Crown.

If you are a member and not on our mailing list, be in the know and sign up now at:

<https://cupe997.ca/signup/>

### Central Bargaining Update.

OSBCU has offered to send their updates out directly to our members who sign up. Their updates are short but will keep you informed on what is happening with your wage and benefit negotiations with the Government and school boards.

You can [sign up for Central Bargaining updates.](#)

That said despite the Government's insistence that students will be in school all year (as they should be) the Government is offering us as Education Workers an insignificant wage increase 2% per year for those earning less than \$40,000 per year and 1.25% for everyone else. With inflation running at over 8% our members cannot afford our wages to be cut by 6% this year, on top of taking an 11% real wage cut over the past decade (when inflation is considered). We are earning less now that we did 10 years ago, and we cannot afford to continue to take real wage cuts while our MPPs are seeing double digit raises.

### Why Vote Yes – STRIKE VOTE via email WE NEED 80% of OUR MEMBERS to VOTE to SHOW THE GOV'T WE ARE UNITED!

As you can see from the important dates section to the left, OSBCU is organizing an electronic ballot **Strike Vote** on Central issues. The vote will be open from September 23 at 12:01am to October 2 at 6:00pm. The ballot will be sent to your personal email on file with us (not your school board email). We have been instructed that we cannot issue a ballot to a board owned email. Send us your personal email to guarantee your right to vote.

We need to send a message to the Government that as Education Workers we won't accept a wage increase that would see us fall further behind. **We need you to commit to VOTE YES.** If you have not been asked to commit to VOTE YES please contact our Lead Organizer Tracey Benson at [treasurer@cupe997.ca](mailto:treasurer@cupe997.ca). Everyone who commits to VOTE YES will receive a OSBCU "Count Me In" t-shirt. To see a summary of our central bargaining proposals and the Government's responses please click [HERE](#).

There are several virtual and in person opportunities listed above-left for our members to find out why we are VOTING YES. Please try to attend at least one.



## Health Care Spending Account

The time limited EWBT Health Care Spending Account (HCSA) has \$1000 per eligible member and is for expenses incurred between December 15, 2021 and August 31, 2022. In addition to other items not covered by our base plan, this account can be used to reimburse you for any money paid as part of your premium share for the period of the HCSA. OTIP sent out receipts for your premiums paid for this period. You have until October 30<sup>th</sup> to claim the expenses against your HCSA. For more information and for step by step instructions on how to claim your premium costs against the HCSA click [HERE](#).

## SULP for 2022-2023

The Scheduled Unpaid Leave Plan (SULP) is not available for the 2022-2023 school year – unless renegotiated through central bargaining.

**CUPE 997 Members** engaging with the community, talking about our issues at various Labour Day events.

- Lindsay & District Labour Council Labour Day Picnic
- Kinmount Fair
- North Simcoe – Muskoka District Labour Council Labour day picnic



## Securing what matters – 5 security tips to make your car theft proof

You may be thinking that your new vehicle is already equipped with the latest security features – and that might be the case – but in reality a lot of basic features aren't deterring criminals from accessing your car. With rising incidents of theft, especially to newer vehicles, have you wondered if your security was compromised? Here are 5 security tips to make your car more secure against theft.

Read more at [www.otip.com/article151](http://www.otip.com/article151).



Thanks to everyone who ordered their CUPE 997 Education Worker Wednesdays T-Shirt! Our order is in and is being distributed to schools this week. We hope to have most of them in schools for Wednesday so please wear your t-shirt or purple on Wednesdays going forward. This will show support for our Central and Local Bargaining teams as they work hard on behalf of the members to get a fair contract that respects our collective priorities which will allow our members to provide the services that are so necessary in the education of students of TLDSB.

Please send pics of you and your coworkers wearing their shirts to [info@cupe997.ca](mailto:info@cupe997.ca)