

Feb 27 Provincial Election is an Opportunity to Fight for Public Education Funding and Staffing

As part of our bargaining campaign to secure the necessary investments in public education, CUPE-OSBCU is shining a light on the understaffing crisis in Ontario’s public education system.



Key Survey Findings

Approximately 12,000 CUPE members participated in the services survey, and the results confirm that Ontario’s public school system is facing an understaffing crisis.

- 84.1% of members report **stress and burnout** due to overwork.
- CUPE members are making up for the staffing shortfall by doing **over 1300 full-time jobs’ worth of unpaid work** in schools.
- Members in all classifications (ranging from 70% to 97%, depending on the classification) say **student needs are unmet** due to understaffing, workers are unable to complete all their tasks daily, and workloads have increased significantly over the last five years.
- 83% of members agree that **more staff are needed** to meet existing needs and improve student support quality.

As CUPE members know from our 2022 bargaining campaign, when workers unite and are prepared for powerful strike action, we can win important gains—even when faced with concessions.

To secure funding and staffing investments for Ontario’s students and education workers, we will need to once again prepare for maximum strike readiness. In the meantime, we must seize every opportunity to champion a supportive and inclusive public education system where every student’s needs are met.

Media Coverage on CUPE-OSBCU’s Services Initiative



- Jan 29, CBC: [Unions say the province is shortchanging schools by millions, leaving students and classrooms in crisis](#)
- Jan 28, Sarnia News Today: [Ontario school boards are at a breaking point: CUPE](#)
- Jan 28, Londoner: [Underfunding leading to violence, unsafe Ontario schools: Union](#)
- Jan 29, Radio Canada: [L’éducation « doit être un enjeu électoral », selon des syndicats en Ontario](#)

CUPE’s 57,000 School Board Members: Workers and Community Advocates



CUPE members are not just workers capable of powerful workplace action—we are also parents, guardians, grandparents, and active members of Ontario’s communities. While we prepare for decisive workplace action, we can also take action in our ridings during the provincial election campaign.



Speak Up for Public Education

Local Unions, CUPE Councils, and Labour Councils can engage provincial candidates in their ridings, asking them to show their support for students and workers by committing to the following investments:

- ➔ Hire **more education workers** in every classification to improve student support and make workloads manageable.
- ➔ Increase funding to schools and tie those **increases to staff hiring**.
- ➔ Implement a concrete plan to **stop violence in schools**, ensuring necessary support for students and safe work environments for staff.
- ➔ Engage in a fully transparent and participatory overhaul of the funding formula, involving unions and parents, to base education funding on student needs and guaranteeing job protections.


It is important that our communities elect as many MPPs as possible who support these demands.

Join the OSBCU Education Election Zoom Webinar!


Get informed on what is at stake for students, families, and education workers in Ontario before you cast your vote.

Each 45-minute session will also cover information on how and where to vote. All education workers are welcome.

 **Wed Feb 19, 11:00 AM**

<https://osbcu-ca.zoom.us/j/85779730559> 


 **Thu Feb 20, 7:00 PM**

<https://osbcu-ca.zoom.us/j/88634853152> 

Provincial Education Platforms

CUPE-OSBCU calls on every political party to commit to these investments.

CUPE members are seeing funding cuts across school boards and increased workplace violence because of successive provincial governments starving our education system. Also, both Conservative and Liberal governments in Ontario have shown they would not hesitate to legislate concessions upon our members.

The Ontario NDP is pledging to increase staffing and make funding improvements for repairs, maintenance, and needs-based support for students. Concrete improvements are needed in each of these areas, and CUPE-OSBCU is pleased to see these commitments. [Read more here.](#) 

CUPE-OSBCU also calls on other provincial parties to release their education agendas.

The outcome of this election will significantly impact the bargaining mandate we face in central negotiations. Regardless of which political party forms the government, our work will continue until we win a high-quality public education system where students and workers are treated with the respect and dignity we deserve.