

# LOCAL AND CENTRAL BARGAINING UPDATE

## OPSEU Central Bargaining

OCEW (Ontario Council of Educational Workers) and the Government, were scheduled to continue negotiations on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and as a result of a lack of movement, OCEW filed for conciliation on Sept 16, 2015. Through this process, the Ministry of Labour appoints a “conciliator”, who is an impartial person, whose role is to work with the parties to reach an agreement. Conciliation is scheduled for mid to late October 2015.

## OPSEU Local Bargaining

Our local bargaining team met with the employer for two half days, on Sept 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to exchange and discuss proposals on LOCAL issues only. We meet with them again on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions. We have additional dates scheduled for the end of the month and two in November. Talks up to this point, have not been very productive, however we are hopeful that after our discussions next week, and in our additional days we have scheduled, that things will begin to improve.

Please note, contrary to the many rumours that have been going around, **OPSEU Local 330 is not in a work to rule position. OPSEU Members** will continue to report to work to continue with **OPSEU duties**, until such time as we may initiate our own action. There seems to be some confusion around CUPE’s job action and their Phased Work to Rules , in relation to who it affects. CUPE represents over 55,000 Education Support Workers, which include; Custodians, Educational Assistants, Clerical, IT, DECE’s etc. CUPE at the Simcoe District School Board only includes Custodial and Maintenance staff. Therefore, if you are reading their Phase Work to Rule Documents, and seeing Clerical, EA etc. job action this only applies to CUPE members and not OPSEU members. We encourage you to continue to support and respect the members of other bargaining units (ETFO, CUPE) who are currently in work to rule positions. Please do not take on tasks and/or duties that would normally be that of another bargaining unit. This may include collecting or distributing forms, collecting any monies (milk money, pizza money) not emptying recycling bins, sweeping hallways, picking up garbage in the halls etc. If at any point you are asked to perform or complete a task or duty, that would normally be that of an ETFO and/or CUPE member or you are aware of someone who has been, and/or, you are unsure whether you should be doing a specific task or duty that you have been asked to do, please call or email the office so we can assist in clarifying and address the issue with the employer, if need be; 705-739-7232 or [opseu330@bellnet.ca](mailto:opseu330@bellnet.ca). Or contact your local district steward.

If at any point during local or central bargaining, **OPSEU** implements Job Action, the information will be posted on our Website and sent out to our email contact list outlining specific details and expectations, as soon as we can. Please understand, that there will not always be something to update or share with our members at this time, despite hearing updates and escalated job action from other brother and sister bargaining units, ETFO and CUPE as they are further ahead in the process.

**Please understand, that in order to respect the integrity of the bargaining process and the Ontario Labour Relation Act, specific details of bargaining both locally and centrally cannot be discussed or shared.**

*Kelly Martin - President*