



The Provincial Discussion Table (PDT) is now entering a decisive phase. To date, we have tabled all of our propositions but have yet to hear clear responses from the ministry or the Board representatives on these common provincial issues.

The only commitment so far has been on benefits packages. The ministry has made it clear that no benefit plan would be reduced. On this issue, we are also waiting on a global amount that would be used to improve benefit packages.

This important step forward allows us to remain positive on the outcome of this collective bargaining process, but we realize that major discussions are still ahead of us.

From May 7 to 10, we will be meeting with the other parties for what appears to be a series of decisive negotiations. We expect to hear back from the ministry and the boards on all our proposals.

Reference group meeting

In support to the bargaining committee, the OSBCC Reference group will remain available throughout the PDT future discussions.

The elected executives met for the first time since the London OSBCC conference. On April 28 and 29, they all gathered in Toronto for two work days, in preparation for next week's discussions with the government and the Boards representatives.

The first day was mainly about custodial and maintenance workers issues. Staffing level, workload and health and safety concerns were at the agenda. The committee agreed that one way to address these problems is to establish standards for cleaning and maintenance that would apply across the boards. In order to keep a clean and safe learning environment for students, we believe that staffing level will need to be seriously looked at by the other parties at the table.

Supervision of students was also on the reference group's agenda. CUPE members are still doing supervision despite the fact that legal implications remain uncertain and vague on this. This will certainly be a major debate at the PDT in the upcoming days.

Local negotiations

While provincial talks are speeding up, it's also crucial that your local prepares for negotiations with its own board. Some locals have yet to express their intent to bargain.

As the PDT process continues and eventually leads to a province-wide agreement, every local will need to ensure that the global package signed at the provincial level actually goes into ratification at their own local level.

OSBCC Survey

The bargaining committee is asking for your input on some important questions. A short survey was sent to your local last week and we would appreciate that local leadership gets back to their OSBCC representative on this matter.

The valuable information that we collect will help us to better understand where everyone is at regarding local bargaining. Please take some time to fill out the survey and contact your OSBCC Area rep before May 7th.

Information: Contact your local CUPE executive, check out the CUPE Ontario website <http://www.cupe.on.ca/>, or join the CUPE school boards Listserv. If you wish to receive this newsletter by fax please send your fax number.

In solidarity,

Your bargaining committee:

Terri Preston	OSBCC Chair
Susan Hanson	OSBCC
Marc Boisvert	OSBCC
John Weatherup	Local 4400
Frank Ventresca	Local 4156
Linda Thurston-Neeley	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Atkinson	CUPE Assistant Director
André Lamoureux	CUPE Assistant Director
Brian Blakeley	CUPE School Boards Coordinator
Paul O'Donnell	CUPE Research
Elizabeth Nurse	CUPE Legal
Luc Tittley	CUPE Communications
Antoni Shelton	CUPE Ontario Division

TEL 416.292.3999 FAX 416.292.2839 EMAIL gr8in08@cupe.ca www.cupe.ca