

## Next steps in central bargaining

As you know notice to bargain was served for all locals and bargaining units on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Minister of Education (Liz Sandals – no change from before the election) has now issued the anticipated regulation authorizing CUPE as the employee bargaining agent for the 109 bargaining units who voted to participate in central bargaining. She has also issued the regulation naming a “Council of Employer Bargaining Agents”, which ensures that we will be bargaining with all four trustee associations at the same table.

We anticipate setting a meeting in mid-late August with the employer to start talks about what will be bargained centrally. OSBCC will use the list of issues agreed at our conference in February as our starting point for these talks. If there are disagreements with the employers as to what is bargained centrally vs. locally, those disputes will be resolved by the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB).

Provincial benefits plan discussions will resume in September.

### August mobilization training

Has your local registered someone for the mobilization training we are holding in Cornwall the week of August 11<sup>th</sup>? If not, please do so ASAP.

### Building our Profile

Several locals have been working to raise the profile of our work in the community. This is crucial as we head into bargaining – too often the public conversation about education is dominated by teachers only.

Some local examples:

- In Area 5, Local 5678 has rented booths at the Labour Day event in Cornwall and the Spencerville Fall Fair. The local will be distributing our **My School Community Activity Books** and crayons to families at those events.
- In Area 8a, Local 4400 has a van that will visit farmers’ markets and community events to promote the work of their members. They too will use the activity books.
- In Area 12 (Niagara-St. Catharines), the locals participated in a family picnic sponsored by the CUPE district council. They set up a table where children used the activity books while local members spoke to parents about our work in schools. They will continue to do this at area festivals through the summer.
- In Area 13 (London, Waterloo, Stratford and Huron-Perth), locals jointly purchased a car window cling film that says “CUPE support staff – our schools work because we do.”

Have you done any profile-building work in your area? If you have, please let us know so that we can share ideas. Send your stories and pics to [osbcc@cupe.on.ca](mailto:osbcc@cupe.on.ca)

### New website URL:

We now have a new address for the OSBCC website: It is [www.osbcc.ca](http://www.osbcc.ca) ([www.cccso.ca](http://www.cccso.ca)) – please share with your members in your communications.