

FOR OUR KIDS' FUTURE

A message to members from your OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive regarding the attacks on publicly-funded education

By now, many of you in OSSTF/FEESO have heard about the devastating cuts and changes to publicly-funded education announced by the Ford government. It started with an attack on post-secondary students and our university sector members with cuts that will have a negative impact on students, on services and on the jobs of our members.

On March 15, the Minister of Education announced devastating cuts, which could eliminate roughly 25% or more, of all secondary classes when fully implemented. Programs could disappear and class sizes could increase dramatically.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO

Our strategy moving forward is built upon four pillars:

- Research and Preparation
- Member Mobilization
- Influencing Public Opinion and Government
- Partnering with Allies and Key Stakeholders

The success of defending publicly-funded education and our kids' futures depends on front line education workers. The UNION IS YOU—the education workers who work with students every day.

Research and Preparation

- Watch your emails, mailboxes and social media for announcements and information.
- Share the research papers and information OSSTF/FEESO creates in response to the devastating changes the government is proposing—we will continue to add documents to our website at www.osstf.on.ca—look for our No Cuts to Education page.
- Participate in local preparations for rallies and campaigns—our members are creating most of our actions by working with their local District and/or Bargaining Unit.
- Update your contact information with OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office by logging in to our website and going to your *myOSSTF / maFEESO* account under the My Profile tab >> Update Address—ensure your email and phone numbers are accurate as Provincial Office may send you a message and could host an all member telephone town hall in the near future. You can also confirm your contact information by emailing membership-database@osstf.ca, or calling Membership Database at Provincial Office at 1-800-267-7867 or 416-751-8300. We want to keep you informed!

Member Mobilization

- Participate in the *Rally for Education* on April 6 at Queen's Park, Toronto starting at noon—information is available through your local District and/or Bargaining Unit and online. We will be there with other educational affiliates; parents; students and members of the public who support us.
- Wear “Red for Ed” every Friday to work and use social media to publicize photos and messages.
- Participate in local rallies at MPP offices—watch for more information from your local District and/or Bargaining Unit.
- Watch for information from your local District and/or Bargaining Unit for other locally-based initiatives, rallies and actions.

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Influencing Public Opinion and Government

- CALL, EMAIL or MEET with your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) especially the Conservative MPPs. A personal message can have significant influence. Tell them how the changes that the government are proposing will affect you, your students, your school and your local community.
- Sign on to the Hereforstudents.ca campaign, and SHARE it widely. You can send another email to your MPP on the website.
- When in public, wear a No Cuts to Education button—talk to your local OSSTF/FEESO representative about how you can get one.
- Lobby your local trustee(s) to take a stand against the government's cuts to education.
- Retweet and share OSSTF/FEESO messaging and use the following hashtags:
#hereforstudents #nocutstoeducation #cutshurtkids

Partnering with Allies and Key Stakeholders

- Talk to your family, friends and neighbours—word of mouth is a powerful way to gain support.
- Share information by directing others to our No Cuts to Education page on the OSSTF/FEESO website and to the Hereforstudents.ca website.
- Participate in other rallies and local actions involving other groups who are facing adversity under the Ford government—show your support and share our message too.
- Talk to your colleagues at your schools and worksites who may be from other unions (i.e. CUPE, ETFO, OECTA, and AEFO) and show your solidarity.
- Talk to your school-based OSSTF/FEESO School Council Representative and/or your Support Staff School Council Representative—ensure they are sharing the potential impact of the Ford government cuts with parents at School Council meetings.

**We discourage members from talking to students directly about our political actions and our positions; however, if students ask you questions, use your professional judgment and direct students to some of our information.

This is only the beginning. We expect the Ford government will continue the attacks on publicly-funded education, attacking you as teachers and education workers, and on the students you work with closely.

Together we can prevent this. Make your voice heard. Let Doug Ford know that we are here for students and that we do not support any cuts to education.

THIS FIGHT IS FOR OUR KIDS' FUTURE