

March 5, 2018  
D/BU #107/2017-2018



## Strike by York University CUPE 3903

To: Presidents and All Members  
From: Pierre Côté, General Secretary

### For Action

Further to “DBU 104 - Possible Strike by York University,” Local 3903 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3903), representing York University’s contract faculty, teaching assistants, graduate assistants and research assistants, is on strike as of 12:01 a.m. this morning, March 5, 2018.

**As such, the practicum of all teacher candidates in the Faculty of Education at York University is now suspended, and therefore all Associate Teachers are to cease providing associate teaching services as per OTF Policy IV which states:**

4.1.5 In the event the faculty of a teacher education institution declares a strike in the course of collective bargaining, OTF would consider the practicum to be suspended for the duration of the strike, and OTF members would not provide associate teaching services to teachers in pre-service programs.

Please also be aware of OSSTF/FEESO policies 11.4.1 and 11.5.2 which state:

11.4.1 It is the policy of OSSTF/FEESO that no Member of OSSTF/FEESO should undertake, or cause to be undertaken, any function that, according to the current practice of the place of employment, is regularly undertaken by a member of striking group. (R. 10)

11.5.2 It is the policy of OSSTF/FEESO that district school boards should include in their agreements with teacher education institutions/community colleges a provision for suspension of the practicum/placement in the event of a strike by the faculty of a teacher education institution/community college. (R. 10)

The Dean of the Faculty of Education, York University is aware of this information and has been asked to communicate OTF’s policy to teachers who host practicum placements at York University. Currently, Year 1 Teacher Candidates are scheduled for a one day a week practicum and Year 2 Teacher Candidates are in the midst of a six week practicum placement. Attached for your information is OTF Policy IV – Teacher Education

OSSTF/FEESO will continue to share information with District and Bargaining Unit leaders as we receive it from the Ontario Teachers Federation.

Please direct any questions you may have to Peter Bates, Executive Assistant at the provincial office [peter.bates@osstf.ca](mailto:peter.bates@osstf.ca).

PB/cy – cope 343 (attachment)

**Protecting and Enhancing Public Education**  
**Protéger et faire avancer l'éducation publique**

**Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation**  
**Fédération des enseignantes-enseignants**  
**des écoles secondaires de l'Ontario**  
60 Mobile Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2P3

TEL 416.751.8300  
TEL 1.800.267.7867  
FAX 416.751.3394  
[www.osstf.on.ca](http://www.osstf.on.ca)



## OTF Policies Pertaining to Strikes and Practicum Placements

---

### 4. TEACHER EDUCATION

4.1 It is the policy of the Ontario Teachers' Federation that:

4.1.1 the development of the teaching profession through teacher education be a priority of OTF;

4.1.2 OTF has both the right and the responsibility to participate in all deliberative structures related to teacher education, with the government, the Ontario College of Teachers, other agencies, teacher education institutions and the school boards;

4.1.3 the Ministry of Education ensure that guidance information on teacher education be available in all Ontario schools, both elementary and secondary;

4.1.4 teacher candidates not be offered positions of employment before faculty and associate teacher evaluations of their teaching potential have been completed;

4.1.5 in the event the faculty of a teacher education institution declares a strike in the course of collective bargaining, OTF would consider the practicum to be suspended for the duration of the strike, and OTF members would not provide associate teaching services to teachers in pre-service programs;

4.1.6 in the event of a full withdrawal of services in a strike situation involving members of the Federation, schools in which those members serve shall not be used for practicum, or for any other placement of student teachers;

4.1.7 in the event of a strike situation involving members of the Federation, schools in which those members serve shall not be used for the inservice program leading to additional qualifications; and that,

4.1.8 in the event of a strike situation involving members of the Federation, no OTF Affiliate shall accept teacher candidates re-assigned from the striking Board.