

PE Liaison Report

July/August 2026

The OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive is pleased to present the PE Liaison Report. Please distribute widely and direct questions to your PE Liaison.

From the **Provincial Executive**

Thank you for everything that you do!

As another year closes, we're celebrating everything OSSTF/FEESO members accomplished across Ontario! Thank you for standing up for public education, fighting underfunding, and supporting our students, campuses, and schools.

Looking ahead, our solidarity will be more important than ever. Members can see our video messages on our social channels, including on YouTube!

 [Click here to watch the video.](#) 

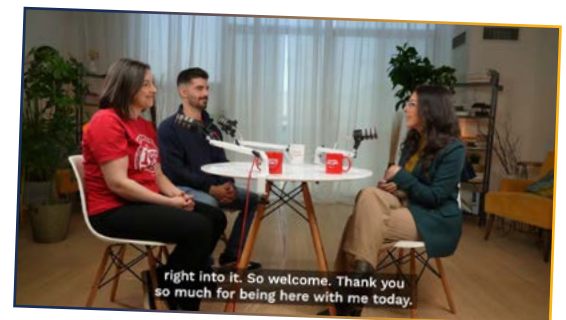


Podcast Episode 5 – Everyday Heroes is now live!

This episode for Education Forum: The Podcast digs into the real stories behind Ontario's public education system when we speak to two education workers about what's really happening in our schools, what OSSTF/FEESO members are facing, and what we are fighting for at the bargaining table. With negotiations underway, staying informed matters more than ever.

Sign up for the Underfunded & Over It campaign at www.Underfunded.ca and get ongoing updates. Listen, share, and subscribe to the podcast to help amplify the voices of teachers and education workers across the province.

Have a great podcast idea, or questions you want answered on the podcast? Send your ideas to podcast@osstf.ca



 [Click here to watch the video.](#) 

Collective **Bargaining Updates**

We Are Ready. The Government Must Be Too!

Central bargaining is underway, and OSSTF/FEESO is at the table ready to do the work every single day it takes to reach a fair agreement.

Since serving notice to bargain on June 3, 2026, OSSTF/FEESO has been clear about what this round of bargaining is about: addressing the real and urgent challenges facing public education. Years of underfunding have left schools stretched thin, with staffing shortages, rising violence, and increasing student needs that are not being met.

Bargaining Dates and Progress

The bargaining process itself has now begun in earnest. Initial meetings are focused on determining and deciding which issues will be negotiated centrally and which will move to local tables. This step must be completed before formal proposals can be exchanged. There is still no central scope agreement, which means proposals cannot yet be exchanged.

More concerning is the clear mismatch between the government's public statements and its actions at the bargaining table. While Minister Calandra has suggested a deal could be reached by the Labour Day weekend, the government has scheduled only a handful of bargaining days so far for this summer with significant gaps in between.

Our Position Is Clear

Our bargaining team is ready!

We are prepared to bargain every day this summer. We made that commitment from the beginning, and it remains our position. Meaningful progress requires commitment not rhetoric. Members, students, and families deserve certainty heading into the next school year. Every delay, every missed opportunity to meet, creates unnecessary anxiety across the system.

What We're Fighting For

At its core, this round of bargaining is about improving both learning and working conditions in Ontario schools. That means:

- safer schools and workplaces
- adequate staffing and supports
- smaller class sizes and better learning conditions
- a strong, stable publicly funded education system that meets student needs

These are not new issues but they are more urgent than ever.

Standing Strong Together

As bargaining continues, member solidarity remains critical. Governments move when members are informed, engaged, and united.

We will continue to keep you informed every step of the way. But make no mistake, while the government may be talking about timelines, your union is focused on action.

We are ready to bargain every day, all summer long, to secure the fair deal our members and students deserve.

Sovereignty and Social Justice

Recognizing Pride Month in Canada

June is traditionally recognized as Pride Month in Canada, a time for schools, worksites, campuses, and communities to celebrate, honour, and support 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Pride is both a celebration and a reminder that the rights and protections many experience today were won through courage, advocacy, solidarity, and collective action. For OSSTF/FEESO, Pride is not limited to one month. It reflects an ongoing commitment to equity, human rights, and safer, more inclusive learning and working environments for all members, students, families, and communities.

This commitment has deep roots in our Federation's history. In 1979, OSSTF/FEESO incorporated "sexual orientation" directly into its anti-discrimination policies, seven years before the Ontario Human Rights Commission included it in its policies. That important step reflected the Federation's understanding that equality must be actively defended and that every worker deserves dignity, respect, and protection from discrimination.

This Pride Month, OSSTF/FEESO reaffirms its commitment to workplaces and learning spaces where 2SLGBTQIA+ members and students feel safe, respected, supported, and valued. No one should have to hide who they are in order to come to work, attend school, or participate fully in their community. Our schools, universities, and worksites are strongest when members,

students, and community people are welcomed as their authentic selves and when inclusion is reflected in our policies, practices, our involvement in local community Pride celebrations and Provincial Pride in Toronto, and the Federation's everyday solidarity actions.

Pride is about visibility, belonging, and action. OSSTF/FEESO remains committed to standing with 2SLGBTQIA+ members and communities, challenging homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination, and continuing the work needed to ensure every member and every student knows they belong.



▶ For more learning, please visit the [OSSTF/FEESO Pride Drop box](#) 

Pension & Benefits Updates

Important Changes to OSSTF Benefits Plan—Effective September 1, 2026

Effective September 1, 2026, there will be important changes to the OSSTF Employee Life and Health Trust (ELHT) for both Teacher and Long-Term Occasional (LTO) plan members and for Education Worker and Long-Term Assignment (LTA) plan members.

It is important that all members receive the following communication and are aware of the changes that will be made to the OSSTF Benefits plan.

A communication from OSSTF Benefits has been sent to all current plan members via their work email, or the email that has been registered with Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) for benefits communications. This communication is available on the OSSTF Benefits website: <https://www.osstfbenefits.ca/news/>.

Plan members can refer to D/BU Memo #162 and to the official communication from OSSTF Benefits for more detailed information.

Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) News and Updates:

New Resource: Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools

Creating safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments is a shared responsibility across public education. As educators continue to navigate increasingly complex social challenges, access to practical tools and evidence-informed resources is more important than ever.

The Canadian Anti-Hate Network has released the second edition of *Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools*, a free resource designed for middle and secondary school educators and school communities. The toolkit provides practical guidance to help recognize, address, and prevent hate, discrimination, and extremism in educational settings while supporting a culture of belonging, respect, and inclusion.

The resource includes strategies for identifying signs of hate and extremist influences, guidance for responding to incidents of hate and discrimination, and tools to support students, families, and colleagues. It also offers approaches to building welcoming school communities and addresses the growing impact of online hate and harmful ideologies on young people.

Drawing on current research, real-world examples, and evidence-informed practices, the toolkit equips education workers with resources to respond thoughtfully to challenging situations and foster environments where all students feel safe, respected, and valued.

Members are encouraged to explore and share this resource within their school communities to support ongoing efforts to promote equity, inclusion, and student well-being.



[Click here to access the Toolkit](#)



Canadian Teachers' Federation Calls for Stronger K-12 Protections in National AI Strategy

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) has welcomed several commitments outlined in the federal government's [national AI strategy](#) while emphasizing the need for stronger protections and meaningful educator involvement in the implementation of artificial intelligence in K-12 public education. Representing more than 370,000 educators across Canada, the Federation supports commitments to modernize online safety and privacy legislation, particularly measures that protect children from potential harms associated with AI technologies.

CTF/FCE stressed that high-level commitments must be backed by enforceable safeguards, including safety-by-design requirements, independent impact assessments, and procurement standards that prioritize transparency, privacy, and accountability. The Federation also expressed concern that current AI literacy initiatives fall well short of meeting the needs of Canada's education workforce, noting that training only a small fraction of educators will not adequately prepare schools for responsible AI integration.

The Federation called for students, educators, and unions to play a central role in developing AI literacy programs and advocated for dedicated investment in public-interest education technology created in partnership with schools rather than driven by commercial interests. CTF/FCE reaffirmed that educators must be actively consulted as AI adoption expands, ensuring that human oversight and the well-being of students remain at the centre of teaching and learning.



[Click here to access CTF/FCE's Media Release – Canadian Teachers' Federation Calls for Stronger K-12 Protections in National AI Strategy](#)



Professional Development and Resources

OSSTF/FEESO AQ Program—Opens July 21

OSSTF/FEESO is excited to announce the launch of their AQ Program. The first session is Fall 2026 and the courses being offered are:

- First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Studies – Part 1, Part 2, Specialist
- Guidance and Career education – Part 1, Part 2, Specialist
- Special Education – Part 1, Part 2, Specialist

These courses have been **created by Secondary teachers for Secondary teachers**. Developed by experienced OSSTF/FEESO members, the courses respond to the realities of teaching in Ontario grade 9-12 classrooms. The program emphasizes accessibility, inclusivity, and practical strategies that support student engagement in diverse learning environments. Session timelines have been designed with secondary educators in mind, working around key points in the secondary school calendar to support candidates' ability to fully participate in their learning while managing their personal and professional responsibilities.

The Fall 2026 session will run from October 1 to December 4. **Registration opens on July 21 and closes on September 21**, though interested participants are invited to join the waitlist to be notified when registration opens. Participants who register before August 21 will be entered to win a \$100 Everything Card gift card.

Course fees are \$650. An OSSTF/FEESO member discount of \$50 is available. Please contact your District office for the discount code. Members will need their OSSTF/FEESO Member ID to claim their discount. Members who need assistance locating their Member ID can email either GetMyMemberID@osstf.ca or WhatIsMyMemberID@osstf.ca to have their Member ID emailed to them automatically.

Members interested in taking Part 2 or Specialist courses are encouraged to have the [Teaching Experience form](#) completed by their Supervisory Officer prior to the end of the school year. This ensures the required documentation is available when registering.

OSSTF/FEESO members taking any of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies courses can apply for funding support from Account 2890 – Anti-Racism and Equity Training for Members. Please use the 2025-2026 [form](#) until the updated one is available.

Please visit <https://aq.osstf.on.ca/> for information about the courses and to join the waitlist.

Member Engagement

Every Conversation Counts

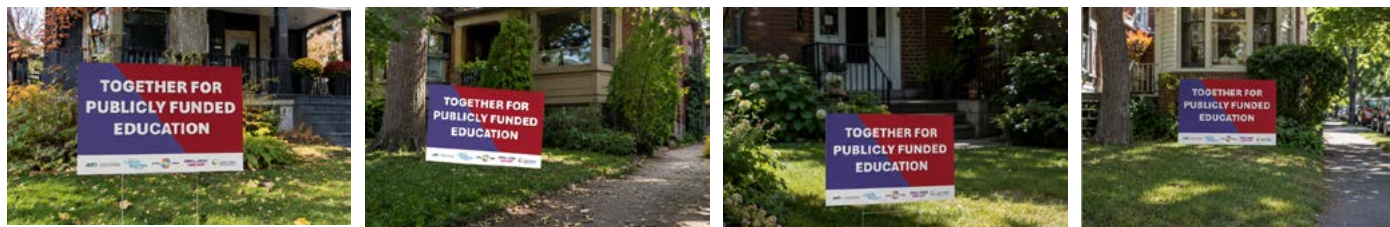
As bargaining continues through the summer, many members will find themselves talking with family, friends, neighbours, and community members about the challenges facing Ontario's publicly funded education system.

These conversations matter. They are an opportunity to share what teachers and education workers see in schools every day: growing class sizes, increasing classroom complexity, rising incidents of violence, staffing shortages, and a lack of the supports students need to succeed.

To help members navigate these discussions, OSSTF/FEESO has prepared two infographics (available in English and French) featuring key facts, messaging, and conversation starters about the challenges facing Ontario's K-12 and post-secondary education sectors. It highlights the priorities we are bringing to the bargaining table and the changes needed to strengthen publicly funded education for students, families, and education workers alike.

We encourage members to use this resource to help inform conversations in their communities and to continue advocating for the well-funded schools, safe learning environments, and strong supports that Ontario students deserve.

Together for Publicly Funded Education: Lawn and Window Signs



The Provincial Executive has printed lawn signs and window signs for distribution to Bargaining Units as part of supporting coordinated actions with Education Affiliates and maintaining public engagement throughout the summer months. Signs were shipped to local offices directly. The design aligns with materials agreed upon by affiliates and reflects the signage distributed at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Assembly (AMPA), featuring English on one side and French on the other. If you are interested in a lawn sign, contact your [local office](#) to find out about local efforts.

Consider joining OSBCU-CUPE for door-knocking in your neighbourhood - stay posted on their efforts at the Paint the Province Purple webpage <https://osbcu.ca/2026/06/22/paint-the-province-purple/>.

Toronto Caribbean Junior Carnival 2026

OSSTF/FEESO is proud once again to be a sponsor of the [Toronto Caribbean Junior Carnival](#) events. The Junior Carnival activities celebrate youth and bring together Caribbean communities and many other diverse communities across the Greater Toronto Area. Over 40,000 parents, youth, and community members are expected to participate in or spectate at the various family-friendly events. OSSTF/FEESO will have a booth at the event on Saturday, July 18, 2026, during the Junior Carnival Parade.

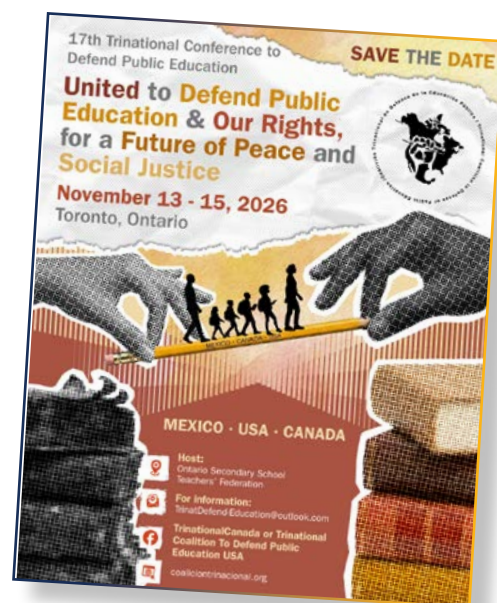
XVII Trinational Conference in Defence of Public Education (November 13 – 15, 2026, Toronto)

For more than 32 years, the Trinational Coalition in Defence of Public Education has brought together educators, education workers, union leaders, researchers, students, and community activists from Canada, the United States, and Mexico to build solidarity and advance public education, workers' rights, democracy, and social justice. The XVII Trinational Conference will take place in Toronto from November 13-15, 2026, hosted by OSSTF/FEESO. *The conference theme is, Unions and communities united to defend public education, protect our rights and build a future of peace and social justice.*

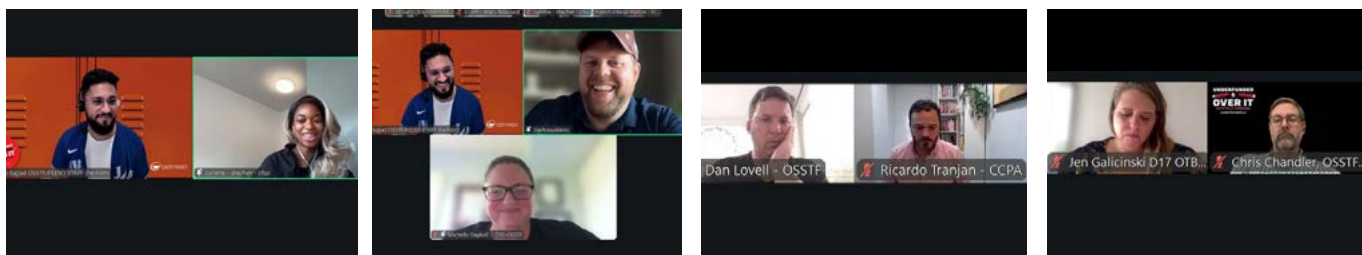
Continuing the Trinational Conference tradition of member participation, OSSTF/FEESO is planning for a delegation that includes up to 15 members who are actively involved in public education advocacy and solidarity work with national and international organizations. Applications for the OSSTF/FEESO delegation will open in August 2026. Selected delegates will participate in pre-conference learning activities, post-conference knowledge sharing, agree to the Participant Commitments for International Delegations on behalf of OSSTF/FEESO, and secure any required release time from the employer.

Districts and Bargaining Units interested in sending representatives may seek funding through Account 2085 (Advancing Human Rights Special District Programs), use local funding, or attend at their own expense.

A public community event is being planned for Friday, November 13, 2026. Additional details will be released in the coming months. Space will be limited, and interested participants are encouraged to register early once registration opens. Members can also join the [Trinational Facebook Group](#) to stay connected with conference planning and activities.



Underfunded and Undervalued: Support Staff and the Crisis in Postsecondary Education Town Hall: June 11, 2026



2026 Equity Mentorship Graduation



Health & Safety/Workplace and Safety Insurance Act Committee Conference: May 29 to May 30, 2026



Highlights

Union Leadership Academy (ULA):
August 19 to August 21, 2026

All-Member Virtual Town Hall:
September 2, 2026

Communication and Political Action Committee (CPAC) Conference:
November 6 to November 7, 2026

XVII Trinational Conference in Defence of Public Education:
November 13 to November 15, 2026, Toronto



D/BU Memos Issued in June

*Sign in within the members' section of the website to access President and Local Executive targeted D/BU Memos. [Access the All-Member D/BU Memos for June here.](#)

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Dates of Significance in July & August

OSSTF/FEESO Provincial social media graphics can be accessed using the hyperlinks below.



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| July 11 | World Population Day |
| July 18 | Nelson Mandela International Day |
| August 1 | Emancipation Day |
| August 11 | International Youth Day |
| August 19 | World Humanitarian Day |

Click here to access the graphics.



Talking Public Education with Friends and Family

SUMMER 2026 EDITION

THE MAIN FACTS:

- ▶▶ **PAUL CALANDRA'S RECORD:** Since 2018, the Ford government has cut **\$6.4 billion from K-12 education funding.**
- ▶▶ **STAFFING CRISIS:** Minister Calandra has cut thousands of jobs from Ontario schools.
- ▶▶ **OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS:** Schools are becoming more crowded, and class sizes continue to increase.
- ▶▶ **VIOLENCE AND SAFETY:** School boards report a **77% increase in violent incidents** since the Ford government took office.
- ▶▶ The Hottest Trend This Summer? ***Holding Paul Calandra and the Ford government accountable for the state of public education.***

RESPONSES TO COMMON ANTI-EDUCATION RHETORIC:

WHEN THEY SAY: The government is investing historic amounts into education. All the unions do is **complain and ask** for more money.

THE TRUTH: Paul Calandra likes to talk about record funding. The reality is that Ontario's public education system has lost \$6.4 billion since 2018 while student needs have become more complex.

He has cut thousands of jobs from Ontario's schools, including skilled trades workers, educational assistants, professional student services personnel, and teachers. These are the workers who keep schools running, support students with complex needs, provide mental health and learning supports, maintain safe buildings, and help students succeed every day.

You cannot cut the people students rely on and then claim public education is fully supported.

WHEN THEY SAY: Working in education is easy. Teachers already make good money, have summers off, and have great benefits.

THE TRUTH: If working in education were easy, Ontario would not be facing an historic shortage. More than 70,000 people with teaching qualifications in Ontario have chosen not to work in the public education system.

Paul Calandra can dismiss concerns about staffing and working conditions, but the reality is that worsening conditions make it harder to recruit and retain the trained professionals that students need to succeed.

WHEN THEY SAY: My classes were huge when I was in school. I don't see the issue.

THE TRUTH: Today's classrooms are very different. Students have more diverse learning needs, greater mental health challenges, and more complex support requirements than ever before.

Instead of responding to those realities, Paul Calandra has overseen larger class sizes, fewer supports, and growing pressures on schools. In some schools, students are sharing textbooks and even desks. **Ontario's students deserve better.**

Talking Post-Secondary Education with Friends and Family

SUMMER 2026 EDITION

THE MAIN FACTS:

► **FALLING BEHIND:** Ontario provides the **lowest per-student post-secondary funding in Canada**, putting our ability to attract talent, conduct research, and compete globally at risk.

► **HIGH COSTS:** Domestic undergraduate tuition remains among the highest in Canada and is nearly 16% higher than the Canadian average.

► **UNCERTAINTY:** Across Ontario, university support staff are being laid off or seeing reductions in full-time work. These cuts affect administrative staff, IT professionals, library workers, lab technicians, maintenance workers, accessibility workers, and student support staff.

► **INSTABILITY:** When support staff are cut, students lose services. Programs are reduced. Wait times grow. Campuses become harder to navigate.

► Funding Ontario's colleges and universities because students, workers, and communities deserve better.

RESPONSES TO COMMON ANTI-EDUCATION RHETORIC:

WHEN THEY SAY: The government is investing historic amounts of money into post-secondary education.

THE TRUTH: Minister Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, is responsible for a post secondary system where Ontario invests approximately \$4.1 billion less than the Canadian average.

WHEN THEY SAY: Students get grants and assistance. They are not paying much out of pocket.

THE TRUTH: Ontario students are carrying some of the highest debt levels in Canada. Changes to OSAP have reduced access to non repayable grants and increased reliance on loans, leaving many students with significant debt after graduation.

WHEN THEY SAY: University is overrated. Lots of people get useless degrees.

THE TRUTH: Post secondary education remains one of the strongest pathways to economic opportunity. University graduates earn more, on average, than skilled trades workers, college graduates, high school graduates, and those without a diploma. Ontario's colleges and universities educate the nurses, engineers, educators, researchers, technologists, and skilled professionals our communities depend on every day.

WHEN THEY SAY: If colleges and universities are struggling, they should just cut costs.

THE TRUTH: : That is already happening. Across Ontario, support staff jobs are being eliminated. Students are losing access to the people who keep campuses running and provide the services they rely on every day. Minister Nolan Quinn has the ability to address this crisis. Instead, workers and students are being asked to absorb the consequences.

What is your union – OSSTF/FEESO – fighting for in this round of bargaining?

OSSTF/FEESO served notice on June 3rd to begin bargaining;

OSSTF/FEESO and other major education unions called on the government to begin bargaining early - they refused. Now our bargaining team is prepared to negotiate throughout the summer.

Our goal is to address challenges facing OSSTF/FEESO members and fight for the supports students and education workers need.

We heard from members and in central negotiations we will fight for:

Education Workers

- Safe, supportive, and healthy worksites to support the well-being of all.
- Working conditions that address recruitment and retention challenges with proper staffing.
- More trained and qualified education workers.
- Increased and timely access to special education assessments and follow-up supports.
- Secure, stable and sustainable jobs.
- Schools where students and workers can learn and work without fear of violence.

Teachers/Occasional Teachers

- Working conditions that attract and retain qualified teachers.
- Smaller class sizes.
- Supports to meet the diverse and increasingly complex needs of students.
- The elimination of mandatory e-learning.
- Safe, supportive, and healthy worksites to support the well-being of all.
- Schools where students and workers can learn and work without fear of violence.

Government funding has failed to keep pace with inflation, leaving Ontario schools \$6.4 billion behind where they were in 2018.

As a member of OSSTF/FEESO, here is what you can do:

As bargaining progresses, member solidarity will be a top priority. Governments pay attention when members are informed, engaged and prepared to unite together.

There will be local meetings about bargaining in the fall – plan to attend!

Join our campaign at **UNDERFUNDED.ca**, and share it with your colleagues, family, friends and neighbours.

Stay informed & watch for more communications about bargaining.

Take action at:



UNDERFUNDED.ca

