



ETFO CB eNEWSLETTER



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ETFO COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING 2023



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OSSTF Reaches Tentative Plan with Government

Some ETFO members may have become aware that the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) has entered into a tentative plan with the government about a process to resolve central and local bargaining through binding arbitration. This news was reported by the [Toronto Star](#) earlier today, and was announced by the Minister of Education this afternoon.

ETFO does not normally comment on the bargaining of other unions.

However, it is important to note that today's announcement does not mean that an agreement has been reached between OSSTF, the government and school boards; this tentative plan is a roadmap on how to achieve central and local agreements.

It appears that this tentative plan requires OSSTF to forgo its legal right to take strike action, both at the central and local level. It also has implications for a Bill 124 settlement for the members of that union.

AEFO, ETFO and OECTA have released the following statement about the announcement of the tentative plan between OSSTF and the government:

A one-size-fits-all approach to binding arbitration will not serve students and local communities, say AEFO, ETFO, and OECTA

TORONTO, ON – The Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), and Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) issued the following statement today, in response to the announcement that the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) may be entering into binding arbitration with the Government of Ontario:

"Today's announcement from Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and OSSTF/FEESO, that the parties may be entering into binding arbitration, is not something that AEFO, ETFO, and OECTA can consider at our respective bargaining tables at this time.

Entering into binding arbitration at this juncture would not support the students we serve in elementary and secondary schools – as binding arbitration would all but guarantee that the key issues we have brought forward at our respective bargaining tables, which are critical to learning and working conditions in our schools, would not be addressed.

Furthermore, the decision to enter into binding arbitration now impacts the opportunity for meaningful local bargaining on key local issues.

The Ford Conservative government has continually refused to engage in substantive discussions with our unions, despite our many attempts to make progress at our respective bargaining tables. We once again call on the government to respect our right to free and fair collective bargaining, and come to our bargaining tables prepared to engage in meaningful discussions about critical issues facing publicly funded education in Ontario – issues such as increased violence in schools, resources and supports for student mental health, teachers' use of professional judgement, and addressing the teacher shortage.

The frontline teachers and education workers represented by AEFO, ETFO, and OECTA will continue to work toward achieving fair, negotiated

agreements that defend and protect publicly funded education, and support all students, educators, and families in this province."

For a copy of the media statement please click [here](#).

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