



ETFO CB eNEWSLETTER



October 18, 2023

ETFO Members' Strike Mandate Sends Resounding Message to Government to Start Bargaining Seriously

ETFO's teacher and occasional teacher members have given their Federation a strong show of support by voting 95 per cent in favour of taking central strike action, if necessary.

A [media release](#) about ETFO's central strike vote results will be issued shortly to media across the province.

In ETFO's media release, President Karen Brown noted that:

"This strong strike mandate sends a very clear message to the government. Our members have been working for over a year without a contract, and their patience has run out. We need the government to

stop stalling and start negotiating seriously on our members' key priorities, like providing more supports for students with special needs, acknowledging the staffing crisis in education, putting a fair compensation offer on the table, and addressing violence in schools.”

Frequently Asked Questions About the Central Strike Vote Result

Does the central strike vote result apply to all ETFO members?

No. Separate central agreement terms apply to ETFO's 80,000 teacher/occasional teacher members and to ETFO's 3,500 education worker members. As a result, under the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA) ETFO is required to take separate central strike votes for teachers/occasional teachers and education workers.

ETFO's teacher and occasional teacher members participated in the central strike vote, so the results of the strike vote apply only to teacher and occasional teacher members.

Because ETFO was able to achieve a tentative central agreement for our education worker members on September 22, 2023, those members did not participate in the central strike vote. That means the strike vote result does not apply to them.

Does the central strike vote result mean that ETFO teachers and occasional teachers are now in a legal strike position?

No, ETFO is not in a legal central strike position at this time.

Under the Labour Relations Act and the SBCBA, there are a number of preconditions that need to be met before ETFO is in a legal central strike position. Those preconditions are reviewed in Central Bargaining Bulletin #10, which members will receive from their ETFO local during the week of October 23, 2023.

Does this strike vote result mean that central strike action is inevitable for ETFO teacher/occasional teacher members?

The results of ETFO's central strike vote conveys to all parties that our members are expecting a fair deal to be reached at ETFO's Teacher/Occasional Teacher Central Table. But a vote in favour of a strike does not necessarily mean ETFO members will be engaging in job action.

ETFO remains optimistic we can reach a fair deal at the central table; the central strike vote is an important factor in supporting that goal.

Have another question about ETFO's central strike vote? Take a look at [ETFO's strike vote FAQs](#).

QUICK UPDATES...

In [this video](#), President Karen Brown explains the importance of taking strike votes and a strong strike mandate at this critical point in the bargaining process.

[On August 29, ETFO filed for conciliation](#) after progress stalled at its central tables. A Conciliation Officer has been appointed by the Minister of Labour and has been meeting with representatives from ETFO, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the government in an attempt to move the bargaining process towards a resolution. For more about conciliation, visit our [Conciliation FAQs](#).

Protecting teacher professional judgement is a key ETFO bargaining goal. In this [ETFO Voice Magazine article](#), Tara Zwolinski explains why protecting professional judgement is crucial.

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