



Statement by ADFO, CPCO and OPC – Bill 28, *Keeping Students in Class Act*

November 3, 2022

L'Association des directions et des directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO), the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) and the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), representing 8,000 principals and vice-principals in Ontario's elementary and secondary schools, oppose the government's move to pass legislation, overriding the protections enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, imposing a collective agreement on CUPE members in Ontario, the lowest paid workers in the education sector. The move is an unprecedented violation of the principles of collective bargaining, and the government has other legal options available. This sets an inequitable and oppressive precedent for all future bargaining in which the government may take part with any employee group, in any sector.

We understand the importance for students to be in school for learning. As school leaders, we know that the pandemic was, and for some remains, a very difficult time. Students in Ontario took part in emergency remote, online, in-class and hybrid learning over two and a half years. Some students continue to struggle to reach their learning level. Throughout that time period, all educators and education workers committed to doing everything possible to help our students learn, succeed and manage, and we continue to do so.

We respect the Collective Bargaining process, which includes the constitutional right to withdraw services temporarily in the case of an impasse. Imposing an agreement through legislation, while the parties remain at the table, is an affront to the process. We hope all parties are able to reach a deal through respectful bargaining.