



Association des directions
et directions adjointes des
écoles franco-ontariennes



CATHOLIC
PRINCIPALS'
COUNCIL | ONTARIO



Statement by l'Association des directions et des directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes, Catholic Principals' Council Ontario and the Ontario Principals' Council

OCTOBER 3, 2019

Yesterday we learned of CUPE's decision to commence full strike action in Ontario schools if an agreement with the Crown and the school boards' associations is not reached by Monday October 7. While we respect the bargaining process, our focus remains on the significant impact labour disruptions have on the continued safety and learning environment of many of our students.

Since CUPE members commenced work-to-rule action on September 30, many principals and vice-principals in the affected boards are, in addition to their regular duties, taking on additional duties to address the safety of students and security of the building. Some of these additional duties may include sweeping hallways and gymnasiums; picking up garbage; monitoring entrance doors; supervising students; and supporting students with special needs, including buckling/unbuckling safety harnesses. This is not sustainable.

CUPE's statement yesterday that "principals have chosen to unlock doors and leave them unlocked," is misleading. Such changes in protocol and the performance of additional duties are at the direction of, or in consultation with, school board senior staff.

Labour disruptions, including strikes, are particularly challenging for our most vulnerable students. Without EAs, the safety and learning of students with special needs will be impacted. Without custodians, breakfast programs and extra curriculars will be difficult to run; facilities will not be adequately cleaned; and safety hazards that may arise during a day, such as spills, vomit and other situations, may not receive immediate attention. Without ECEs, there will be challenges with the adult supervision of young children. The ability to maintain safe and inclusive school environments may be compromised in the event of a strike. Schools should only remain open if they can be safe learning environments accessible to all, particularly our most vulnerable students.

Principals and vice-principals will continue to support students, families and staff during labour disruption.

We sincerely hope that the parties are able to reach a fair and reasonable deal before Monday.

Yours truly,

Patrick Venne
President, ADFO

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