W.R.D.S.B. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

eUpdate

The Latest Information to Keep YOU Informed

Dear Members

The purpose of this email is to provide you with an update regarding Central Bargaining.

As you know, we bargain provincially as a part of the Education Workers Alliance of Ontario and this past Thursday we met with the government and our school board counterparts to discuss your bargaining priorities.

During our meetings we discussed at length our frustration with the bargaining process, and the government's unwillingness to allow the unions and school boards to sort out and resolve the very real difficulties that we are all facing as educators.

Ultimately what we experienced was a government that was unwilling to respond meaningfully to any of these concerns.

We left the bargaining table at the end of the day having made only some small progress on identifying those issues that we would continue to discuss directly with the province vs those issues that will be discussed directly with our local school boards at a later date.

This morning's announcement that the government now intends to take away our right to strike altogether and to impose an agreement on education workers across the province was not a surprise given our experience on Thursday. This government's approach appears to be; 'why negotiate when you can legislate'. Clearly they do not appreciate that the right to negotiate and to strike are

Should the Government proceed with its legislation, the most likely outcome will be another court challenge – which would be the third such challenge in the last four rounds of bargaining. In the meantime, we are considering any and all ways to navigate this difficult situation.

Please watch for further updates as things unfold.

In solidarity,

Colleen Dietrich Sisson
President - Educational Assistants Association

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