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 update you with respect to the status of Central Bargaining. Bargaining took place last Wednesday and Thursday in downtown Toronto between EWAO and the Crown/School Boards.

You will recall from our previous update that we have had significant difficulty having meaningful dialogue regarding many of our more significant bargaining issues. Ultimately we concluded that this is likely due to the fact that two other unions have already signed and ratified central agreements (with significant Membership support) and as such, the Government is not inclined to consider our unique issues or willing to make a different type of deal with us.

Accordingly, a strategic decision was made by EWAO last week to advance a proposal that was virtually identical to the agreements of these other two unions. While most aspects of that proposal were accepted, we still remain apart on a few key bargaining items. In

our benefit funding – insisting that we accept a Benefit Funding package that would result in diminished benefits for our Members.

Obviously we are not prepared for any outcome that would result in a reduction to our Members benefits and it is our hope that we will be able to make progress on this issue (and reach a final agreement) without having to take more drastic action down the road – but we cannot be certain of this.

We will continue to update you as things progress. For now, we are seeking further bargaining dates to try and resolve our Benefit Funding issue while considering all other strategic options available to us.

Yours in Solidarity

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