

Wednesday, June 5th, 2019

OSBCU Statement on the recently tabled legislation **Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act 2019**

The 55,000 education workers represented by CUPE are united in their vehement opposition to the wage restraint legislation the Ford government tabled today in Ontario's legislature.

The wages and compensation of CUPE education workers – 70 percent of whom are women – have never contributed to the deficit problem this government claims to be dealing with. Over the last ten years, wages for our members have actually fallen in real terms. We are losing ground and struggling to keep up. This legislation will only exacerbates the problems that workers face as they try to make ends meet in low-wage, precarious jobs.

This legislation not only wilfully ignores the vital contribution that education workers make to Ontario's system of public education; it also abrogates our right to free collective bargaining, which remains the best path to decent work that pays a fair wage.

But the legislation is not only an attack on workers; it is also an attack on Ontario's public services and its system of public education. The quality of Ontario's public services is tied directly to fair and equitable treatment of the people who deliver those services. Imposing a 3-year "moderation period" on the already modest wages of education workers will make it harder for school boards to recruit and retain qualified staff. As a result, students and parents will suffer from a lack of consistent support in schools.

CUPE education workers and the people of Ontario deserve better.



Laura Walton

President, Ontario School Board Council of Unions

