

## Lobby Days

On November 28, approximately 140 OSSTF/FEESO members descended on Queen's Park for a day of meetings with local Members of Provincial Parliament. This was our first Lobby Day since the Progressive Conservative government was elected in June.

Over half of the MPPs sitting in the Ontario legislature are new to Queen's Park, and this was an excellent opportunity for Federation members to establish a connection with them early in the government's mandate. The objective of Lobby Day 2018 was to ensure that MPPs heard from frontline education workers about the inherent value of publicly-funded education in Ontario.

The day began with a breakfast hosted by OSSTF/FEESO and attended by a number of MPPs. Our members heard remarks from Official Opposition Leader Andrea Horwath, Minister of Education Lisa Thompson, NDP Education Critic Marit Stiles, and Mike Shreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario.

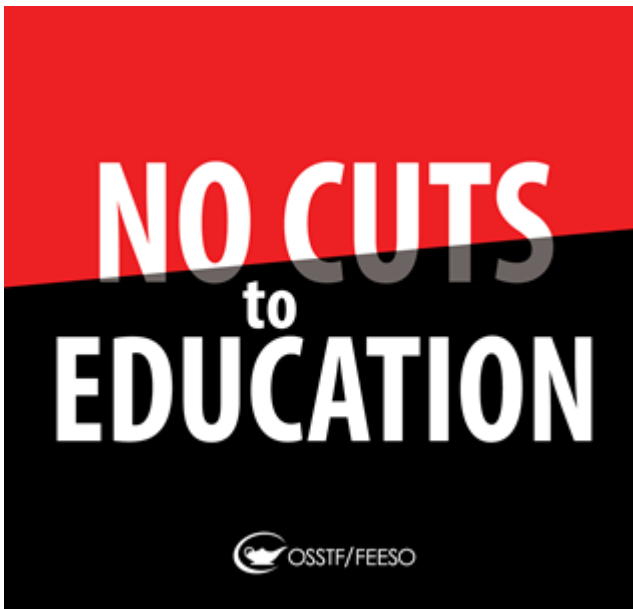
In all, OSSTF/FEESO members were able to meet with 80 MPPs. Almost all of NDP and Liberal members met with OSSTF/FEESO members from their local areas. Members of the governing Progressive Conservatives made themselves available.

Members who met with their local MPPs provided a strong message about the inherent value of publicly-funded education to the province of Ontario, emphasizing that public education provides a wide range of programs and choices for students, and is open to everyone. Ontario's education system is among the highest-ranked in the world, and is frequently cited as a significant reason why business invests in our province.

OSSTF/FEESO looks forward to future opportunities to engage MPPs from all of the political parties in ongoing discussions about ways in which the government can work with educators to protect and enhance public education.



*We finally made The Update!*



## NO CUTS TO EDUCATION RALLY

OSSTF District 2 Algoma

Thursday February 7th, 2019 @4pm  
MPP Ross Romano's Office

390 Bay Street

**Come out and join us**

## Mobilization Strategies Training Workshop – January 16, 2019

Members of District 2 Bargaining Units attended a Mobilization Strategies Training Workshop in Toronto. Workshops included communications strategies, organizing rallies, influencing the decision makers, member engagement and combatting threats to public education. This was a very well attended conference with many first time attendees and much of the time was used to plan and organize the rally that we will be having on February 7<sup>th</sup>. OSSTF's new "HALO" media campaign was announced. Here are some links provided to some of the advertisements created.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=30&v=HEwTEL10su8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=30&v=HEwTEL10su8)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL\\_3eYx3OVE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL_3eYx3OVE)

## Full-Day Kindergarten: A statement from OSSTF/FEESO president Harvey Bischof

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation is alarmed that the Minister of Education is unwilling to commit to the continuation of Ontario's full-day Kindergarten (FDK) program beyond the school year beginning in September, 2019.

All available research tells us that the adoption of full-day learning, facilitated by early-learning classroom teams comprising certified teachers and registered Early Childhood Educators, has had an enormously positive impact for Ontario's students. Studies have shown that students enrolled in FDK are better prepared for Grade 1, better positioned to be successful in school, and at significantly less risk for problems with social competence, language and communications skills, and overall cognitive development.

Any move on the part of the Ford government to cut full-day Kindergarten would be astoundingly short-sighted, and would have an immediate and permanent negative impact on the province's youngest students. We urge the government to consider the overwhelming evidence and to recognize that the costs associated with FDK represent a valuable investment in the future of Ontario – an investment that will yield returns for decades to come. Additionally, the provincial government should count on this threat to our members' work and to a high quality publicly funded education system being vigorously opposed by OSSTF/FEESO.

## Building Better Schools

The PC Government has announced that they want to remove the cap sizes for Kindergarten to Grade 3 as well as increase the class size for all grades. Parents, students and educators know that increasing the class size negatively impacts the quality of education and reduces access to teaching resources, especially for students who need additional support. The government has requested feedback on this proposal. Let the government and your local MPP know that you do not support larger class sizes in our schools and that instead of cutting funding the government should be investing in our world class public education system. Visit

[www.buildingbetterschools.ca/class](http://www.buildingbetterschools.ca/class) to fill out a petition.

## IN THE NEWS...

### Doug Ford challenged on OSAP changes



TORONTO.CITYNEWS.CA  
Trudeau concerned about possible education cuts by Ford government



CBC.CA  
Ford government to scrap LHINs, create new health care 'super agency,' NDP says | CBC News

### Ontario government 'absolutely committed' to full-day learning, education minister says

Students protest OSAP changes at Queen's Park