

CUPE EDUCATION WORKERS

MAKING SCHOOLS WORK



MPP EDUCATION WORKERS LOBBY MEETING

Once you have scheduled a meeting with your MPP notify Darcie McEathron, CUPE National Representative, at dmceathron@cupe.ca and Colin MacDougall, at osbcc@cupe.on.ca so that we can keep track of our lobbies across Ontario.

Below is what you should ask your MPP at your lobby meeting.

Be sure to ask!

FOR EACH MEETING YOU SHOULD:

1. **Identify yourself**, what you do in the school and the value your work brings to students and the learning environment.
2. **Explain the challenges** you have, whether it's the excessive workload, the lack of replacement staff, the violence in the school or other challenges. Explain how these challenges impact staff and services and, ultimately, the students' learning experience. Working without a contract for a year also adds to the challenges and the ability to address them.
3. **Ask the MPP if they will advocate** on your behalf during this round of bargaining, to ensure the government shows respect to education workers.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Our concern is that government cutbacks are compromising the ability of education workers to provide the learning environments students need and deserve. By freezing wages, eliminating job security provisions, weakening sick and paid leaves as well as parental and pregnancy leaves, the government is directly eroding the services that make learning possible.

WHAT I WANT YOU, AS MY MPP, TO DO?

I want you to help provide stability for students returning to school and for education workers going back to work. I want you to ask the Ontario Government to advocate for schools that are safe, supportive and inclusive for all students.



ASK

Will you ask your caucus to support us? To ensure the government shows respect for education workers during this round of bargaining?

1. What action(s) will you take?
2. What recommendations discussed today will you support?

REPORT:

Lobby tips for meetings with MPPs

- Be specific and clear.
- The key messages, said in the simplest way possible, are the most important things we want the MPP to know (see challenges).
- Don't feel that you need to rush through in order to make all the points. Be comfortable in presenting the material and go at your own pace.
- Give your lobby meeting a local feel by talking about what's going on in your school and community – the community and constituents the MPP represents.
- Avoid being too broad or general (for example, "I need your support" is way too general). Ask whether they will make the two commitments (see above).
- Remember to be courteous and respectful, regardless of the MPPs reaction to our point of view.