



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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March 7, 2017

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
FROM: Patrick Daly, President
SUBJECT: **Bill 92 School Boards Collective Bargaining Act Amendments**

Further to the memorandum of February 23, 2017 from Labour Relations Chair Kathy Burtnik and me, this is to advise boards on the current status of Bill 92.

Bill 92, *School Boards Collective Bargaining Amendment Act*, had Second Reading debate on February 28, 2017. On March 1, the House debated a time allocation motion moved by Government House Leader. On March 2, after Question Period, this time allocation motion was voted on and carried.

The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on General Government with public hearings to occur on March 8 and March 9. OCSTA will be making a joint presentation along with the three other school board associations on March 8 to the Standing Committee to outline our proposed amendments.

As you are aware, the key suggestions tabled by OCSTA and the other Trustees' Associations were not adopted by the Ministry of Education. These included our key recommendation that central and local bargaining be conducted in sequence. We have attached our letter outlining our concerns for your information.

If you want to make a written submission, the deadline is **5 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017**. These can be sent directly to the clerk Sylwia Przezdziecki at sprzezdziecki@ola.org.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca or Sharon Duffy at sduffy@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachment



February 10, 2017

Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide input during the third round of consultation on the *School Board Collective Bargaining Act*. While we appreciate the opportunity to provide input, we would be remiss if we did not express our significant disappointment with respect to a number of issues which we understand will not be tabled for amendment.

Notably, during each of the subsequent consultations all four Trustee/School Board Associations articulated their firm commitment to sequenced bargaining. It was our shared understanding that the Crown also saw value in such an amendment, as a manner by which to provide greater stability within the sector. It is regrettable that such an amendment, which we firmly believe to be in the best interests of students, is no longer being considered by the Crown.

Secondly, we are concerned that the proposed amendments do not reflect the ability to decrease the number of central bargaining tables. Moreover, as proposed, the amendments could, at some point, result in greater, not fewer central bargaining tables.

Finally, we continue to express our deep concern with respect to the Crown's unwillingness to address the possibility of continuous sanctions within the sector simultaneously at both the central and local level. This concern is now further exacerbated given the proposed amendments to the structure of the Act which would allow for the possibility of collective agreements expiring at different times. Accordingly, the education sector could find itself in a state of perpetual sanction. We firmly believe that this is not in the best interest of students and has the real possibility of eroding public confidence in the publically funded education system.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important initiative. We hope that the Crown will reconsider its position on the areas articulated herein.

Yours truly,

Denis Chartrand, President, ACÉPO

Jean LeMay, President, AFOCSC

Patrick Daly, President, OCSTA

Laurie French, President, OPSBA

CC: Bruce Rodrigues, Ministry of Education
Andrew Davis, Ministry of Education
Brian Blakeley, Ministry of Education