

VICTORY FOR CUPE'S 55,000 EDUCATION WORKERS

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Wednesday, April 20th, 2016 was a historic day for CUPE Education Workers in the Province of Ontario.

I was advised late in the day yesterday that Bill 115 has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC).

As you are aware, Bill 115, stripped Education Workers rights in the Province of Ontario to bargain collectively. The court challenge was filed in 2013 and was postponed in 2014 at the request of the province, the challenge resumed in December of 2015.

CUPE's position has always been that bill 115 was a "gross overreach of our basic Freedom of Association Rights". The (SCC) has agreed that the Government's approach to collective bargaining was "fundamentally flawed".

In his ruling, Justice Lederer wrote that this flawed piece of legislation was "not just on the economic circumstances of education workers but on their associational rights and dignity, autonomy and equality that comes with the exercise of that fundamental freedom".

Justice Lederer, however, made no ruling on remedy, obliging the parties to meet to try and reach an agreement. If an agreement is not reached on remedy, the matter will be referred back to Justice Lederer.

CUPE will be meeting with the unions, who were part of this court challenge, to discuss what we want to see by way of remedy.

Unions that were part of this challenge, along with CUPE, were Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Ontario Public Service Employees' Union (OPSEU).

As CUPE moves forward through this process we will provide you with updates as soon as we are made aware.

In Solidarity

Rod King
President, CUPE Local 218