My apologies for the delay in sending this information but we wanted to ensure we had the all the information we could provide.

Today at 4pm the Minister of Education announced that schools would be closing following March Break until April 6.  I was invited on to a call with other education worker union leaders at 5pm to receive further information.

What we know?

* Classes are cancelled
* Permanent employees and those in Long Term Occasional position will be paid, it is unclear if casual workers will receive pay
* Childcare programs and day cares are not covered by this announcement – it will be up to individual boards to determine whether day care, extended day and childcare programs will continue to run.  This may result in our custodial/caretaker staff being required to clean these spaces
* Education Centres, Administration Buildings may remain open – again this is a local school board decision – the Ministry has asked that there be communications be available for the parents and public.  This may result in our clerical staff being required to report to work or being asked to work in an alternative location.
* Permits and Community Use of Schools may be continuing – again this is another local school board decision and may impact our members.
* Closures extend to adult learning, ESL and ISL programs – it is our understanding that permanent members from these programs will also be paid.

What next?

* We are asking presidents to contact their employer tomorrow to ask for directives as to what will occur in your school board
* Area Mobilization Officers and/or Area VPs will be in contact to gather questions that you may have so that we can direct these to the Ministry for answers
* We also suggest that presidents consult their current quarantine language if applicable.
* OSBCU exec will be canvassing to see if presidents are available for a townhall call on Thursday evening – we will confirm via email on Monday evening.
* The OSBCU office will be remaining open during this period to assist members as required.
* More information and a press release will be forthcoming tomorrow
* The situation is very fluid – as new information comes forward we will contact you.

In Solidarity,

**Laura Walton**

President

Ontario School Board Council of Union