MEDIA RELEASE

ETFO FEEO

97% of education worker members, 97% of teacher/occasional teacher members vote YES in favour of strike action

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TORONTO, ON – Today, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) announced the results of its central strike votes. Ninety-seven per cent of education workers (EW) members voted in favour of central strike action, while 97 per cent of teacher and occasional teacher (T/OT) members also voted in favour.

"These strong strike mandates reflect the growing challenges educators face every day in schools and worksites across Ontario and underscore our members' solidarity and support for ETFO's bargaining team," says ETFO President David Mastin. "They send a powerful message to the government and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) that ETFO members are united, determined, and prepared to take action, if necessary, to secure meaningful improvements to their working conditions, which are students' learning conditions."

ETFO's priority is to reach fairly negotiated agreements at both bargaining tables that address members' concerns and deliver meaningful improvements on its bargaining priorities, including smaller class sizes, addressing classroom complexity and composition, strengthening health and safety protections, job security, and fair compensation.

"Minister Calandra's suggestion that strike vote results simply reflect a desire to reach fair agreements misses the point entirely," adds Mastin. "ETFO members voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action because they are frustrated by years of chronic underfunding and deteriorating learning and working conditions. We are united in our expectation that the government and CODE finally address long-standing concerns that have been ignored for far too long."

Bargaining resumes at the T/OT Central Table and the EW Central Table at the end of November. Details about collective bargaining are available at etfocb.ca.

ETFO represents approximately 84,000 members, including 80,000 public elementary teachers and occasional teachers, and 4,000 education worker members (i.e., designated early childhood educators, education support personnel, and professional support personnel). Visit BuildingBetterSchools.ca.

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