



September 3, 2013

Dear members

I am writing this letter to all of you, the 60,000 members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO), as the new school year begins. The 2012/2013 school year presented some new and difficult challenges. Through it all, there was one consistent theme that could not be ignored. There was, and will continue to be, a full assault on the rights of workers in our country, and around the world.

As we begin the 2013/2014 school year, we must remain strong and vigilant when it comes to the attacks on workers in all sectors of our society. That is why we are launching a campaign this fall to inform you, the public and the decision makers of the benefits of belonging to a union, as well as highlight the dangers of an austerity agenda that would seek to lower wages, take away the rights of all workers, and put our economy onto a pathway to poverty. This campaign is called ***Together Fairness Works*** and we will be joining hundreds of other unions and labour organizations through the Canadian Labour Congress to promote a common message.

Over the next few months, you will be receiving some information about the importance of workers' rights in the 21st century, and the ongoing attacks against those rights. Our hope is that you will become more aware of what is at stake when it comes to your future and the future of our children, whether they are the ones you interact with on a daily basis at your schools or worksites, or your own family.

In addition, you will also see additional materials from our ***Together Fairness Works*** campaign that we encourage you to share with family, friends, neighbours or anyone else in your community to begin an honest dialogue about the future of public education and the rights of workers in our province and in our country.

All of you are part of one of the best educated, progressive places in the world when it comes to educating our children and youth and you all should be proud of the work that you do. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year and in representing you as your OSSTF/FEESO President.

In solidarity

Paul Elliott
President, OSSTF/FEESO