

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CDSBEO Plans for CUPE Strike Action

Kemptville, ON (Thursday, October 3, 2019) - The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has announced that their members (custodians, school office staff, educational assistants, early childhood educators, library workers, maintenance staff and other non-teaching staff) will escalate strike action to a full withdrawal of services beginning Monday, October 7, if an agreement is not reached by Sunday, October 6, 2019.

This labour disruption arises out of the current central negotiations process involving the Government of Ontario, the Council of Trustees' Association (which includes the Association representing Catholic school boards – the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association), and CUPE.

"The safety of students is our greatest priority," noted Board Chair Todd Lalonde. "Therefore, due to the vast and significant roles held by CUPE employees, the CDSBEO regrets that if strike action commences, all schools will be closed to students effective Monday, October 7, until further notice."

CUPE represents more than 440 employees (31 per cent of the CDSBEO work force) within CDSBEO schools and administrative offices, and the Board has made this decision with student and staff safety as the priority. The strike will affect many facets of school operations, and the Board has considered many factors including the safety and wellbeing of students, supervision, medical supports and care, safe operation of water and sanitation systems, and the condition of classrooms and other areas of the school building.

The Board encourages parents and guardians to have alternate childcare plans in place for Monday. Parents who have children that attend childcare and/or before and after school care programs in CDSBEO facilities should contact their individual provider for details on operations during the strike.

Details and updates on the strike situation will be posted regularly on the CDSBEO website at www.cdsbeo.on.ca/cupe.

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The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 39 elementary and 10 secondary schools across eight counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 13,100 students.

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