

February 10, 2009

NEW PROVINCIAL FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR ENGLISH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND BOARDS

Education Minister Kathleen Wynne has presented a new and final funding proposal to the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). This proposal is a final attempt to get both parties to agree to a new four-year provincial framework agreement that is in the best interest of students and teachers.

HIGHLIGHTS

The new \$700 million investment would address the federation's continued concerns and reflects the consequence of ETFO and OPSBA not reaching a provincial framework agreement by the December 5, 2008, deadline. It contains fair salary increases, more preparation time, smaller class sizes, more grade 7 and 8 teachers, more time to do report cards, improved working conditions for occasional teachers and guaranteed enhancements to benefits.

- \$461 million to fund a 10.4 per cent salary increase over four years (two per cent, two per cent, three per cent, three per cent), bringing the maximum salary to about \$92,700
- \$138 million to increase the amount of preparation time teachers have, from 200 to 240 minutes
- \$40 million to hire 431 more teachers to reduce the average class size in grades 4 to 8
- \$18 million to enhance professional development for elementary teachers
- \$16 million to increase supervision of elementary students
- \$13 million for 144 additional teachers in grades 7 and 8
- \$13 million to improve benefits for teachers and working conditions for occasional teachers.

KEY FACTS

- The 10.4 per cent (compounded) salary increase over four years is in keeping with the salary increase ETFO proposed in December 2008
- All 22 teacher federations and unions representing school board employees, including ETFO on behalf of its support workers, have reached four-year provincial framework agreements
- 392 four-year collective agreements have been ratified locally
- ETFO and OPSBA have until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, to accept this proposal.