Memorandum

**Urgent
Attention Required**

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President
Date: April 26, 2019
Subject: Important Message from ETFO Provincial General Secretary Sharon O'Halloran

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Presidents,

I understand that there is a lot of discussion on social media around the concept of a province-wide general strike on May 1. I am writing to clarify ETFO's advice with respect to what you may have heard concerning a proposed general strike for May 1, May Day.

While ETFO is fundamentally opposed to the policies and actions of the current Government, particularly in the education sector, we are not organizing, participating or supporting this strike activity. In addition, it is our understanding that this action is not being proposed or coordinated by the OFL.

While we understand the sentiment behind the call for this general strike, we must consider whether it is in the best interests of our members to engage in this activity at this time.

We are concerned that ETFO and our members could face potential legal action, fines and discipline by the Ontario Labour Relations Board and their employers if they engage in this strike activity on May 1. Any strike activity or any other organized action by ETFO must be consistent with your best interests and our overall strategy to advance the interests of our organization.

I want to assure you that ETFO is developing a full political action and legal strategy as we plan for the commencement of collective bargaining. If needed, we will have no hesitation to engage in the right strike activity at the right time.

We continue to work with our labour partners to counter the Ford Government activities and will keep you informed of developments.

Sharon O'Halloran
General Secretary, ETFO Provincial

CS:JJ

c/   *Released Executive, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local*
       Sharon O'Halloran, General Secretary, ETFO Provincial
       Sam Hammond, President, ETFO Provincial
       Terry Card, President, ETFO Thames Valley Occasional Teacher Local

LOCAL BARGAINING MATTERS