



Ford government's appeal of Bill 124 ruling a roadblock to negotiated agreements

In November 2022, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and other unions won a major victory at the Ontario Court of Justice when Justice Markus Koehnen ruled that Bill 124, which capped wage increases for public sector employees at one per cent annually for three years, infringed upon union members' right to freedom of association under the Charter.

Rather than accepting the court's decision, the Ford government pressed forward with an appeal that is being heard this week.

"Instead of ending its attack on workers and moving to remedy, the Ford government is doubling down on its disregard for workers' rights and creating roadblocks to negotiated agreements," says ETFO President Karen Brown. "Their appeal—in the midst of negotiations with ETFO and other education unions—undermines collective bargaining and is a waste of taxpayer money. Not another public dollar should be spent on their disappointing attempt to violate workers' rights."

Read the press release [here](#).



Status Update on the New Language Curriculum

On June 15, the Ministry of Education invited ETFO to a technical briefing the next day, June 16, where they shared an update on the Grades 1-8 Languages/Français curriculum and new, de-streamed Grade 9 English/Français courses and implementation supports. The Ministry indicated that the contents of the briefing were confidential; therefore ETFO cannot communicate the information that was shared.

The Ministry reiterated that the new Language Grades 1-8 curriculum must be implemented in September 2023, despite the fact that the Minister of Education and the Ministry have stated that the curriculum would be “overhauled”, and curriculum hasn’t been released yet.

ETFO members are not opposed to updates and improvements to the current Language curriculum, but this is the third major curricula that the government has rolled out since 2020 at the last minute, expecting educators to implement it in an unreasonably short timeframe and without adequate professional learning, resources, and supports. Educators need sufficient time, dedicated resources, and sustained professional learning opportunities to properly implement any new or revised curriculum.

At the time of publishing this special newsletter, ETFO had not seen the new Language curriculum nor was the Federation consulted on any of the revisions or the implementation plan. Making critical decisions on curriculum without genuine and meaningful collaboration and consultation with all stakeholders will not create better outcomes for students.

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represents 83,000 teachers and education workers.