



Winnipeg Association of Non-Teaching Employees

111-1555 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B5 • Telephone (204) 953-0250 • Fax (204) 953-0259

President email: wante@wante.org Website: www.wante.org

June 2017

TO: All W.A.N.T.E. Membership

FROM: Luis Tome, Collective Bargaining Chairperson

RE: Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee would like to update the membership on the status of negotiations with the WSD.

It is now certain that we will not meet with the Division until sometime in September or October. We have not yet set any dates, but are working towards acquiring some available dates.

I would like to inform you about Bill 28 called the "Public Services Sustainability Act". It was assented to on June 2, 2017 but does not become law until it is proclaimed. It has not been proclaimed and is therefore not law. As to when this will happen, only the Government knows for sure. When (if) it becomes law, it will limit percentage increases for those affected, which includes employees of school divisions, to 0% in the first 2 years, .75% in the third year, and 1% in the 4th year of the next collective agreement(s) after March 20, 2017.

Although it is not law, it appears Bill 28 has already had an impact on our negotiations and will continue to do so. Our understanding is that all unions currently in bargaining are being advised by employers that even though Bill 28 is not yet law, employers are not prepared to discuss any increases above what is in the Bill.

News reports have indicated that the Labour movement intends to legally challenge Bill 28 and the Public Services Sustainability Act. W.A.N.T.E. is working with our Legal Counsel Tony Marques from Myers Weinberg LLP. Myers is very much involved in providing advice on Labour matters, including Bill 28, to the Manitoba Federation of Labour and various Labour Organizations, Associations and Unions.

Based on legal advice, W.A.N.T.E. will consider all options available to ensure we are able to participate in a meaningful and fair bargaining process conducted in good faith as required by law.

We will continue to keep the membership informed as much as is legally possible. Once we enter actual negotiations the flow of information becomes more restrictive. This is to protect both parties in the process of bargaining in good faith and in a respectful manner.

It is in these times of uncertainty we are bombarded with various media reports and stories that circulate over many different work locations. You may contact me, the Chair of Collective Bargaining, or the W.A.N.T.E. office if you have any questions. We will provide you with the best information we have to confirm or deny whatever you may hear out there.

If you would like to more about Bill 28 (Public Services Sustainability Act) follow the link below.

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2017/c02417e.php#>