

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO
(hereinafter called the "Government")

- and -


ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEDERATION
(the "Union")

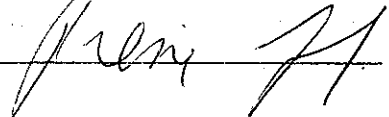
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. In the interest of promoting an improved environment for learning and teaching, the above mentioned parties have reached this Memorandum of Understanding (OSSTF/FEESO MOU) which includes all the of the attached provisions.
2. Following approval through an OSSTF/FEESO province-wide vote, and as set out in the provisions entitled Local Bargaining, it is the expectation of the above-mentioned Parties that the listed portions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be expeditiously appended to, and form part of, the existing local collective agreements. Effective dates are as specified in the appended documents with the exception of all Sick Leave/Short Term Sick Leave and Disability Plan provisions which are to be retroactive to September 1, 2012.
3. Where disagreements arise locally with respect to the implementation of these agreed-to documents, those issues in dispute shall be referred to the Implementation Committee.
4. Nothing contained herein shall have the effect of reducing a right that would have otherwise existed as of April 1, 2013.


Dated this 9th day of April, 2013, Toronto, Ontario

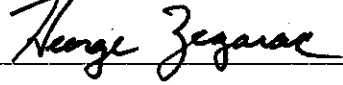
For the Union





For the Government





Local Bargaining

The Government will make best efforts to ensure that:

1. A period of local bargaining will commence immediately and must conclude by June 28, 2013;
2. The following agreed to items shall be appended to, and form part of, the existing local Collective Agreement without amendment:
 - Job Security for Support Staff
 - Maternity Benefits
 - Voluntary Unpaid Leave of Absence Program for All Bargaining Units
 - Unpaid Days and Offsetting Measures for Teacher Bargaining Units
 - Reconciliation for Teacher Bargaining Units
 - Attendance Recognition
 - Sick Leave/Short Term Sick Leave Disability Plan
 - Long Term Disability
 - Non-vested Retirement Gratuity for Employees
 - Specialized Job Classes

Any issue arising during incorporation of central issues shall be forwarded the Implementation Committee for resolution.

3. Local issues for discussion cannot be inconsistent with the terms contained in the OSSTF/FEESO MOU or associated regulations and legislation;
4. Prior to the first local negotiations meeting the Parties shall disclose to each other local issues for consideration;
5. There shall be a minimum of three and no more than six full-days of local negotiations for each OSSTF/FEESO bargaining unit. Such time requirements may be altered with mutual consent;
6. Agreement on local issues shall be achieved through mutual consent;
7. At any point in the process, a request may be made by either Party for mediation assistance from the Ministry of Labour.

Job Security – OSSTF/FEESO Support Staff

1. The existing FTE complement as of March 5, 2013 in all OSSTF/FEESO support staff job classes will be maintained until August 31, 2014. For clarity, a job class is defined as per existing collective agreements or the past practice of the parties in implementing surplus provisions.
2. Staffing provisions contained in the 2008-12 collective agreements with regard to surplus and bumping will continue.
3. Notwithstanding the above, layoff of permanent employees, after the date of signing of this agreement, can occur, only in the following circumstances:
 - a. A catastrophic or unforeseeable event or circumstance;
 - b. Declining enrolment; or
 - c. Funding reductions directly related to services provided by bargaining unit members.
4. Where complement reductions are required pursuant to the 3 (b) or (c) above, they shall be achieved as follows:
 - a. In the case of declining enrolment, staffing reductions shall occur at a rate not greater than the rate of student loss, and
 - b. In the case of funding reductions, staffing reductions shall not exceed the amount of such funding reductions.
5. Reductions as may be required in 3 (b) and (c) above shall only be achieved through lay-off after consultation with OSSTF/FEESO on alternative measures, which may include:
 - a. Priority for available temporary, casual and/or occasional assignments;
 - b. The establishment of a permanent supply pool where feasible;
 - c. The development of a voluntary workforce reduction program (contingent on full provincial government funding).
6. Every effort should be made to minimize necessary layoffs through attrition. Notwithstanding the above, a board may reduce their complement through attrition.
7. This letter of understanding expires on August 31, 2014
8. In the event that the current collective agreement contains job security provisions which are superior to the above, such existing provisions shall prevail.

Maternity Benefits

Effective May 1, 2013, an employee who was previously entitled to maternity benefits under the 2008-2012 collective agreement will continue to be entitled to these benefits. In addition, the benefits are also available to:

- Employees hired in a term position or filling a long-term assignment, with the length of the benefit limited by the term of the assignment
- Any other full-time employee (for this purpose defined as greater than 24 hours per week)

Employees on daily casual assignments are not entitled to maternity benefits.

Eligible employees on pregnancy leave shall receive a 100% salary through a Supplemental Employment Benefit (SEB) plan for a total of not less than eight (8) weeks immediately following the birth of her child, subject to provisions in the 2008-2012 collective agreement, but with no deduction from sick leave or the Short Term Leave Disability Program (STLDP).

Employees not eligible for a SEB plan will receive 100% of salary from the employer for a total of not less than eight (8) weeks with no deduction from sick leave or STLDP.

For clarity, for any part of the eight (8) weeks that falls during a period of time that is not paid (i.e. summer, March Break, etc), the remainder of the eight (8) weeks of top up shall be payable after that period of time.

Employees who require a longer than eight (8) week recuperation period shall have access to sick leave and the STLDP through the normal adjudication process.

For clarity the aforementioned eight (8) weeks of 100% salary is the minimum for all eligible employees, but where superior entitlements exist in the 2008-2012 Collective Agreement, those superior provisions shall apply.

Notwithstanding the above, where a bargaining unit so elects, the SEB or salary replacement plan noted above will be altered to include six (6) weeks at 100%, subject to the aforementioned rules and conditions, plus meshing with any superior entitlements to maternity benefits contained in the 2008-2012 collective agreement. For example, a 2008-2012 Collective Agreement that includes 17 weeks at 90% pay would result in 6 weeks at 100% pay and an additional 11 weeks at 90%.

Voluntary Unpaid Leave of Absence Program For all Bargaining Units

1. In order to provide potential financial savings to the Board, a Voluntary Unpaid Leave of Absence Program (VLAP) shall be established for all OSSTF/FEESO bargaining units effective May 1, 2013

2. Employees may apply for up to five (5) unpaid leave of absence days for personal reasons in each year of the Collective Agreement.
3. Requests for unpaid days shall not be denied provided that, if necessary, there are expected to be enough available casual staff to cover for absent employees, and subject to reasonable system and school requirements.
4. For voluntary unpaid leave days, which are scheduled in advance for the 2013-2014 school year, the salary deduction will be equalized over the pay periods of the 2013-14 school year provided the requests are made in writing by May 31, 2013.
5. It is understood that teachers taking a voluntary unpaid leave day shall be required to provide appropriate work for each of their classes and other regular teaching and assessment responsibilities including but not limited to preparation of report cards and exams.
6. Requests for voluntary unpaid leave of absence days will not normally include the first week following the start of each semester (other than an August PD day), the week prior to the start of exams, and the exam period.
7. Voluntary unpaid leaves shall be reported as approved leaves of absence for the purposes of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and OMERS.
8. The Board will report unpaid VLAP days to each OSSTF/FEESO Bargaining Unit based on the names of applicants and the total approvals on a monthly basis.
9. All net savings achieved by the Board as a result of VLAP days being utilized shall be applied to Offsetting Measures below.

Unpaid Days and Offsetting Measures for Teacher Bargaining Units

All permanent regular day school members of a teacher bargaining unit will be required to take one (1) mandatory unpaid day on Friday December 20, 2013.

The following cost savings measures will be implemented:

1. Voluntary Unpaid Leave of Absence Program
2. Efficiencies in the delivery of professional development for the Oct 11, 2013 PD day will be used to provide funding for offsetting measures equivalent to 16% of the cost of an unpaid day. Further, this PD day will be a day reserved for the delivery of Ministry priorities.

3. An Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) will be introduced in the event that the savings in #1 and #2 are not projected to provide sufficient cost recovery for one unpaid day across the Bargaining Unit.

If the necessary savings are achieved in #1 and #2 the Board may choose to implement the ERIP program at its discretion.

The ERIP shall be in the form of a \$5000 payment to any teacher who retires between the end of November 2013 and the last day of Semester 1.

The Board shall give notice of the implementation of the ERIP no later than November 30, 2013.

Any requirements for notification periods for retirement or specific retirement dates shall be waived in the 2013-2014 school year. A minimum two week retirement notice period shall be provided to boards in the open period from November 30, 2013 to the last day of Semester 1 in the 2013-2014 school year.

4. Any other cost savings measures agreed to by Bargaining Unit and the Board.

The offsetting measures noted above shall only apply for the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 school years.

All permanent regular day school members of a teacher bargaining unit will be required to take a further unpaid day on Friday March 7, 2014 if the above measures do not achieve sufficient savings at least equal to the value of one day's pay across the Bargaining Unit.

In the event that cost-savings measures achieve savings in excess of those required to offset unpaid days, such savings shall be retained by the Board.

Any member of OSSTF/FEESO who is not a regular permanent day school teacher shall not be required to take unpaid days.

Reconciliation For Teacher Bargaining Units

A reconciliation committee will be created with equal representation from the Board and the Bargaining Unit.

The committee will meet monthly starting in June 2013 to track targeted savings and expenditures. The cost of the ERIP shall be deducted from savings. All relevant information required to monitor and administer the reconciliation shall be fully shared between the parties.

In the event that by November 30, 2013, savings are not on target to meet the financial goal equivalent to at least one (1) unpaid day, the ERIP program will be implemented. In the event of a dispute between the Board and Bargaining Unit about the financial necessity for an ERIP, the Board may choose not to offer the ERIP program. However, in the event that the financial savings for the cost recovery for the unpaid day are not subsequently achieved, the permanent teachers shall not be required to take an unpaid day on March 7, 2014.

Attendance Recognition

A Shared Savings Initiative (SSI) shall be established in every bargaining unit. The SSI shall operate as follows:

Individual member sick leave usage for the 2013-2014 school year shall be as per the definition for sick leave in the 2008-2012 collective agreement and shall be determined as of June 30, 2014.

If a permanent regular day school teacher bargaining unit member's usage is below six (6) full days of his/her days' absence then the member shall receive a payment equivalent to his/her daily rate. Annual compensation is not to exceed what would have been paid in the absence of unpaid days.

For OSSTF/FEESO members, other than permanent regular day school teachers, the payment shall be equal to a member's regular daily rate of pay and shall be contingent upon the member having taken a VLAP day during the term of this collective agreement.

The payment shall be made at the earliest opportunity following June 30, 2014.

Sick Leave/Short Term Sick Leave and Disability Plan

Sick Leave Days

1. An employee who was previously entitled to sick leave under the 2008-2012 collective agreement will be entitled to this sick leave plan. In addition the sick leave is also available to:
 - Employees hired in a term position or filling a long-term assignment, with the length of the sick leave limited by the term of the assignment.
 - Any other full-time employee (for this purpose defined as greater than 24 hours per week)
2. Each school year, an employee shall be paid 100 % of regular salary for up to eleven (11) days of absence due to illness. Illness shall be defined as per the 2008-12 local collective agreement. Part-time employees shall be paid 100% of their regular salary (as per their full-time equivalent status) for up to eleven (11) days of absence due to illness. Such days shall be granted on September 1 each year, or on the employee's first work day of the school year, provided the employee is actively at work and shall not accumulate from year-to-year.
3. Where an employee is absent due to sickness or injury on his or her first work day in a fiscal year, a sick leave credit may only be used in respect of that day in accordance with the following:
 - a) If, on the last work day in the previous fiscal year, the employee used a sick leave credit due to the same sickness or injury that requires the employee to be absent on the first work day in the current fiscal year,
 - i. the employee may not use a sick leave credit provided for the current fiscal year in respect of the first work day, and
 - ii. the employee may use any unused sick leave credits provided for the immediately preceding fiscal year in respect of the first work day.
 - b) If 3 a) does not apply, the employee may use a sick leave credit provided for the current fiscal year in respect of the first work day if, for the purpose of providing proof of the sickness or injury, the employee submits,
 - i. the information specified for that purpose in the employee's employment contract or collective agreement, or
 - ii. if such information is not specified in the employment contract or collective agreement, the information specified for that purpose under a policy of the board, as it existed on August 31, 2012.

- c) If an employee is absent due to sickness or injury on his or her first work day in a fiscal year, section 3a) and b) also applies in respect of any work day immediately following the employee's first work day until the employee returns to work in accordance with the terms of employment.
 - d) For greater certainty, the references in section 3a), b) and c) to a sickness or injury include a sickness or injury of a person other than the employee if, pursuant to the definition of illness in section 2, the employee is entitled to use a sick leave credit in respect of a day on which the other person is sick or injured.
 - e) A partial sick leave credit or short term sick leave credit will be deducted for an absence due to illness for a partial day.
 - i. However, WSIB and LTD providers are first payors. In cases where the employee is returning to work from an absence funded through WSIB or LTD, the return to work protocols inherent in the WSIB/LTD shall take precedence.
4. Any leave of absence in the 2008-12 Collective Agreement, that utilizes deduction from sick leave, for reasons other than personal illness shall be granted without loss of salary or deduction from sick leave, to a maximum of five (5) days per school year. Local collective agreements that currently have less than five (5) days shall remain at that number. Local collective agreements that have more than five (5) days shall be limited to five (5) days. These days shall not be used for the purpose of sick leave nor shall they be accumulated from year-to-year.
5. For the purposes of section 2, if an employee of a board is only employed to work for part of a year, the employee's eligibility for sick leave credits shall be reduced in accordance with the policy of the board, as it existed on August 31, 2012. If hired after the beginning of the fiscal year, a full-time employee is entitled to the full allocation of sick leave credits as per sections 2 and 8.
6. The Board shall be responsible for any costs related to third party assessments required by the Board to comply with the Attendance Support Program. For clarity, current practices with respect to the payment for medical notes will continue.
7. The Parties agree to continue to cooperate in the implementation and administration of early intervention and return to work processes.

Short Term Sick Leave

8. Each school year, an employee absent beyond the eleven (11) sick leave days paid at 100% of salary, as noted in section 2 above, shall be entitled up to an

additional one hundred and twenty (120) days short term sick leave to be paid at a rate of 90 per cent of the employee's regular salary if the employee is absent due to personal illness including medical appointments and as per the board adjudication processes in place as of August 31, 2012.

9. Short-Term Sick Leave days under the Short-Term Leave and Disability (STLDP) shall be treated as traditional sick leave days for personal illness including medical appointments.
10. The Board's Disability Management Teams shall determine eligibility for the Short-Term Leave and Disability Plan (STLDP) subject to the terms and conditions of the 2008-2012 collective agreement and/or board policies, procedures and practices in place during the 2011-2012 school year.

Short-Term Leave and Disability Plan Top-up (STLDPT)

11. For employee absences that extend beyond the eleven (11) sick leave days, employees will have access to a sick leave top up for the purpose of topping up salary to one hundred percent (100%) under the Short Term Leave and Disability Plan.

This top up is calculated as follows:

Eleven (11) days less the number of sick days used in the prior year.

12. In 2012-13, the transition year, each employee shall begin the year with two (2) days in the top-up bank.
13. In addition to the top-up bank, compassionate leave top-up may be considered at the discretion of the board. The compassionate leave top-up will not exceed two (2) days and is dependent on having two (2) unused leave days in the current year. These days can be used to top-up salary under the STLDP.
14. When employees use any part of a short term sick leave day they may access their top-up bank to top up their salary to 100%.

Long Term Assignments

15. A member of OSSTF/FEESO employed by a board to fill a long-term assignment position that is a full year for that employee's job class shall be eligible for the

following sick leave credits during a board's fiscal year, allocated at the commencement of the long-term assignment:

1. Eleven (11) days of Sick Leave paid at 100% of regular salary.
2. Sixty (60) days per year of Short Term Sick Leave paid at 90% of regular salary.

16. A member of OSSTF/FEESO who is employed by a board to fill a long-term assignment position that is less than a full year for that employee's job class shall be eligible for eleven (11) days of Sick Leave and sixty (60) days of Short Term Sick Leave as per section 15, reduced to reflect the proportion the assignment bears to the length of the regular work year, and allocated at the start of the assignment.

17. A long term assignment shall be as defined in the 2008-2012 collective agreement. Where no such definition exists, a long term assignment will be defined as twelve (12) days of continuous employment in one assignment.

LTD Plans for Support Staff

18. If the Long Term Disability Plan contained in the 2008-2012 collective agreement requires a waiting period of more than 130 days, the 120 day short term sick leave period referenced above shall be extended to the minimum waiting period required by the plan.

Long Term Disability

All OSSTF Teacher Bargaining Unit members who are permanent employees shall participate in the Long Term Disability Plan as a condition of their employment subject to the terms of the OSSTF LTD plan administered by OTIP. The Provincial OSSTF LTD plan shall commence April 1, 2013.

The Employer shall be responsible for the following tasks related to the administration of the mandatory LTD Plan:

A) Enrolment/Eligibility Administration

- i) Provide all teachers with written LTD coverage information as provided by OSSTF and/or OTIP ;
- ii) enroll all eligible teachers into the LTD program;
- iii) Inform teachers going on an approved leave of absence through written information provided by OSSTF/OTIP of their option to maintain LTD coverage during the approved leave.
- iv) keep all records updated / submit teacher information for the benefits that are insured through OTIP on or before November 30th each year using the required process and formats required by OTIP;
- v) support the LTD waiver/termination of LTD coverage process for retiring teachers as defined by OSSTF and OTIP;
- vi) where a payroll feed administration is jointly selected by the District and Board; submission of the required eligibility/enrolment information defined by OTIP

B) Premium Administration

- i) Make monthly payroll deductions based on the premium and insured salary provisions and timelines provided and outlined by the OSSTF Provincial LTD program;
- ii) submit all payroll deduction (premiums) along with the required supporting information defined by OSSTF and the Teacher Bargaining Unit (ie. premium rate used in calculation, total insured salary, number of insured lives, policy and division number, premium period);
- iii) collect and submit appropriate premiums from eligible teachers who elect LTD coverage while on approved leave of absence
- iv) support the information and process requirements in the agreed-upon payroll feed (as per A vi) ;
- v) all of the above requirements must be performed within the contractual and administrative timelines established for the Provincial OSSTF LTD Program

- vi) process premium refunds for members who have had incorrect deductions due to items such as administration errors, not eligible etc.)

C) LTD Claims Administration

- i) Provide notification of prolonged absences after 15 consecutive working days to the designated OSSTF Teacher Bargaining Unit Representative and OTIP in order to support the early intervention rehabilitation process
- ii) Support the mandatory early intervention process by providing contact information where required
- iii) utilize the OTIP claims kit to adhere to the required procedures for the LTD claims process
- iv) provide teachers with the appropriate claims applications in the event of disability
- v) support, complete and submit the employer statement in the LTD claim process
- vi) support return to work programs for teachers returning from disability (including job description, scheduling and salary information)

All of the above requirements must be performed within the contractual and administrative timelines established for the Provincial OSSTF LTD Program.

D) OSSTF and OTIP are required to:

- i) Provide LTD insurance to eligible OSSTF teachers
- ii) provide the group policy/plan document to Employers and teachers;
- iii) provide claims kits to Employers that provide supporting information about the administrative procedures
- iv) communicate any changes to the LTD program including premium rates to teachers and the Board on a timely basis
- v) provide access to teachers on the LTD coverage information
- vi) develop and support the LTD waiver/termination of LTD coverage process for retiring teachers as defined by OSSTF and OTIP;
- vii) provide full support for teachers who are off due to prolonged absence through Early Intervention and Union Services;
- viii) participate along with the Board and OTIP in return to work programs.

Non-Vested Retirement Gratuity For Employees

The minimum years of service for retirement gratuity shall be defined as the lesser of the contractual minimal service requirement in the 2008-2012 collective agreement, or ten (10) years.

Those employees with less than the minimum number of years of service shall have that entitlement frozen as of August 31, 2012. These employees shall be entitled to a Gratuity Wind-Up Payment calculated as the lesser of the board's existing amount calculated under the board's collective agreement as of August 31, 2012 (or board policy as of that date) or the following formula:

$$\frac{X}{30} \times \frac{Y}{200} \times \frac{Z}{4} = \text{Gratuity Wind-Up Payment}$$

X = years of service (as of August 31, 2012)

Y = accumulated sick days (as of August 31, 2012)

Z = annual salary (as of August 31, 2012)

For clarity, X, Y, and Z shall be as defined in the 2008-2012 collective agreement or as per policy or practice of the board for retirement gratuity purposes.

The Gratuity Wind-Up Payment shall be paid to each employee by the end of the school year.

The pay-out for those who have vested Retirement Gratuities shall be as per ONT. REG. 2/13 and 12/13 made under the PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST ACT, 2012 and ONT. REG. 1/13 and 11/13 made under the EDUCATION ACT.

Specialized Job Classes

Where there is a particular specialized job class in which the pay rate is below the local market value assessment of that job class, the parties may use existing means under the collective agreement to adjust compensation for that job class.

Future Grids

The government shall meet to review school board employee salary grids with stakeholders during the term of the 2012 to 2014 collective agreements including, but not limited to, how employees move on the experience and qualification salary grid (where applicable) and the variation currently in the monetary value of each grid step, with a view to future sustainability.

The funding parameters for OSSTF/FEESO salary grids shall remain consistent throughout the process.

Absent agreement during the review, any change to grid issues shall be the subject of collective bargaining for the next collective agreement.

Reg 274 Hiring Practices

The parties agree to establish a committee consisting of up to 8 members of OSSTF/FEESO to meet with no more than 8 combined representatives of English-language public school boards and the Ministry, to meet no later than April 22, 2013 to review Reg 274/12 Hiring Practices with a view to establishing hiring practices agreeable to the parties.

OSSTF agrees to hold in abeyance, any grievances as a result of the regulation pending implementation on September 2013.

Implementation Committee

The Parties agree that a committee for discussion of implementation issues will be established with the goal of encouraging consistency, equitability and fairness of implementation.

The Implementation Committee shall have school board, OSSTF/FEESO and Ministry representatives.

The Implementation Committee shall meet within 30 days of the signing of this agreement to discuss its process including frequency of meetings and topics of mutual interest. The Committee will also consider further means of addressing implementation issues including communications to the Parties and the future role of the committee, if any.

It is understood that this committee and its discussions do not affect the collective agreement and dispute resolution entitlements of any party in any way.

Where the Parties agree to an interpretation, the agreed-to interpretation will be communicated to all affected school boards and Bargaining Units and shall be implemented in accordance with the Implementation Committee instructions. Such decisions may be communicated in interpretation manuals and/or guidelines. Regulations may be made where appropriate. Further, it is understood that the agreement of the Parties on an implementation item has precedent-setting value with respect to Third-Party interpretation.

Provincial Benefits Plan

It is agreed that an "Implementation Working Group" (IWG) that will fully investigate the creation of one or more "provincial" benefit plan(s) for the education sector, with a view to consolidation and consistency of approach, will be constituted by April 22, 2013 and commence meeting as soon as reasonably possible.

The IWG will complete its review by April 30, 2014 for implementation by August 1, 2014

The IWG will be led by a qualified and high profile expert in the field and include members with appropriate expertise and resources. Members of the IWG could include various representatives of teachers' federations, support staff unions, school boards, other staff associations including Principals & Vice-Principals, the government of Ontario (Ministries of Education and Finance), and independent experts.

The province agrees to provide funding of \$5 million which will include administration costs, legal costs, and costs of experts needed to undertake any studies and research required.

The province is committed to the plan. Its development would be guided by the following key draft principles:

1. The plan is for the benefit of all school board employee groups with the ability to have federation/association/union specific employee categories.
 - a. Any stranded employee group must be admitted to the plan as a full member upon request.
2. The governance structure of the plan may include Employee Life and Health Trust(s) (ELHT) which allow for influence by federations, school boards and the Province of Ontario. If individual ELHT Trusts are used to govern federation/association/union specific employee plans, all parties agree to participate in umbrella responsibilities and governance of the plan.
3. The plan would not operate using a single benefit carrier to prevent the creation of a monopoly. Should ELHT Trusts be the model chosen, then individual ELHT Trusts used to govern specific employee plans may use a single benefit carrier.
4. Some members under the umbrella arrangement may wish to consider a different administrator.

5. Funding for the plan is to be based on existing funding by school boards to current benefits providers.
6. Consideration of appropriate gains and risk sharing between the boards, federations and government.
7. Transparency & timely information sharing between all parties.
8. All principles are to be enacted subject to applicable legal parameters, e.g the Income Tax Act.

For OSSTF/FEESO

OSSTF/FEESO agrees to participate in the IWG.

OSSTF/FEESO intends to undertake research based on their membership that would include the following:

- The work undertaken by the OSSTF/FEESO-OPSBA Provincial Benefits Task Force will be updated for current premiums to reflect more up to date information and costing.
- Research based on an Employee Life and Health Trust (ELHT) as a potential model for a provincial benefit plan(s) with the understanding that such research would be of a general nature that it could be applicable to all interested groups.

OSSTF/FEESO could access up to \$2 million of the funding detailed above pursuant to the signing of a contract that would include the normal accountability provisions required by the government.

The Government of Ontario agrees to provide and set aside start-up funding to create the one-time reserve account allocation equivalent to one month of the annual premium. Such funding will be made available at the appropriate time to support negotiations with benefit carriers.