

CUPE social services workers back OPSEU as strike continues



CUPE Ontario SSWCC member Fiona Barr speaks at an OPSEU picket line

On this Worth Fighting For Friday, more than 4,500 OPSEU/SEFPO community and social services workers at 27 non-profit agencies across Ontario are concluding week six of their strike. Workers have taken action- from a picket floatilla in front of Doug Ford's cottage, to over 1,000 striking workers taking to the streets of downtown Toronto to rally in front of Treasury Board offices.

CUPE members have been on the line in solidarity to deliver the message to Doug Ford: "Come to the table, fund the services, end the strike." Their fight is our fight, and there is too much at stake to sit on the sidelines. On the next page is a list of actions you can take to show your solidarity with striking OPSEU workers as they continue their strike for fair wages and a remedy to bill 124.

Worth Fighting For campaign demands

1. **Reverse funding cuts** and adequately fund social services in our communities.
2. **Fund wage increases** for social services workers to ensure liveable wages and address wage suppression due to Bill 124.



Solidarity with OPSEU: Five ways to show your support

1. **Join** an OPSEU picket line.
2. **Wear** Worth Fighting For shirts and campaign swag.
3. **Attend** events and rallies organized by OPSEU.
4. **Share** OPSEU posts on social media and support their e-action.
5. **Ask** your local to make a donation in solidarity.



Join an OPSEU picket line!

Visit the [OPSEU picket line finder](#) and find a picket line near you.

Bring your Worth Fighting For and CUPE swag and show your solidarity and support!



CUPE members showing their solidarity with OPSEU



Meeting with MPPs: Targets to build pressure

Members of Provincial Parliament are leverage targets – they have influence over decisions taken by the primary target, Doug Ford.

Compelling arguments and reasonable demands are not enough. We must demonstrate to Progressive Conservative and Liberal MPPs that they will pay a political cost in their riding if they do not support our demands. This requires tactics that increase pressure on them through the biggest source of our power – our members. Revealing that we are capable of damaging an MPP's reputation sends a strong message to all elected decision makers.

By demonstrating that we can hold elected representatives accountable and expose their failures, we improve our strategic position for winning funding improvements. Even if a local MPP is re-elected, we can measurably reduce their support by making them “wear” their decisions.

If you are meeting with your MPP ask for **public commitment** (e.g. recorded public comments or media statement) from the MPP in support of our two campaign demands listed above. Share a report on the meeting with your members and include the MPP's commitment or lack thereof, making the union's activity visible to members and the employer.

If you want to meet with your MPP to get them to publicly commit to the Worth Fighting For campaign, resources are available to assist you. Reach out to your National Representative and they will connect you to Communications and research Representatives who can help you prepare for your meeting.



CUPE 2276 President and CUPE Ontario SSWCC member Michael Macpherson meets with local MPPs in his region.

Our future is at stake.

Our members deserve to thrive, not just survive, and our service users deserve strong, dependable services. Your local is not alone. When we build power together, it is possible to achieve results.

If you have questions about the Worth Fighting For campaign or are looking for supports and resources to implement these steps, contact your National Representative and your Social Services Workers' Coordinating Committee.