Lobby Day 2017

Well, I didn’t know what I was getting myself into, but it turned out to be a day to remember! My first experience with Lobby Day was more than I could ask for. The accommodations where great, food was great and the learning was phenomenal.

My worries about what do I do were unfounded as I sat and listened to numerous members from the Violence in the Workplace Committee address us for the first time. The information was well laid out and our message to local MPPs was clear, Stop Violence in our Schools. There were three points for us to focus on when speaking with the MPPs:

1. The need for appropriate face to face training of all members.
2. Sufficient staffing to meet student needs.
3. Consistent reporting systems across the Province with a clear definition of what a violent incident is.

In discussing these three points, our collective goal was to have MPPs support our Union in creating an Education Sector Regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Through the Violence in the Workplace surveys conducted, we were armed with statistics to share. This is what our MPP’s across the Province heard…

\* 30 % of members indicated they have received not training related to workplace violence

\* 80% of members said the violence reporting form was either inaccessible or they were unsure where to find it

\* only 10 % of members are involved in giving input into student safety plans

\* 55 % of members indicate that their employer often pressures them to not report a violent incident

\* 90 % of members indicated there was either no consultation or only verbal consultation regarding the incident form they submitted

\* over the past five years, 41 % of local leaders surveyed indicated that the number of violent incidents reported has risen

The statistics were supported by personal stories from members that were shared by local leaders to their MPPs.

Lobby day is only the beginning. There is more work to be done and, as it was presented to us, it looks like there will be numerous stages to get us where we need to be. I encourage you all as active members of our Union, to involve yourself on any level that you can. It is in solidarity that we create positive outcomes of all members across the Province.

I stand with #OSSTF to #StopViolence in our schools!

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