

From: Lana Payne, National President / Présidente nationale

To : <localpresident@unifor52a.com>

Date: Fri, 14 Nov 2025 15:43:05 -0700

Subject: Unifor doesn't shy away from a fight | Unifor ne recule pas devant un combat

Dear members,

As we all witnessed, the UCP government took the extraordinary step of invoking the so-called “notwithstanding clause” to override teachers’ constitutionally protected right to strike and force a collective agreement on our province’s teachers.

This is not a normal course of action for any government, even the UCP, and it is a clear signal that the Danielle Smith government has no respect for workers, our families, or our basic rights.

The Alberta government used their power to:

- Strip teachers of the right to strike,
- Impose an unpopular collective agreement,
- Block legal challenges, and
- Limit free speech and democratic debate.
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It is an unprecedented abuse of government power. We’ve created a [web page](#) to help explain what the back-to-work legislation (Bill 2) means for teachers, other education workers, unionized workers, and all Albertans.

The right to collectively bargain is indivisible from the right to strike. One is pointless without the other. If they can do this to teachers, they can do it to you—including workers in the private sector. This government has declared war on our union rights. We must act now to defend workers.

Protecting our rights is not a partisan campaign. The UCP picked this fight with workers, and we are fighting back. The constitution can’t protect us—only solidarity and strength can secure our rights. In the coming weeks, Unifor will be escalating the Fightback campaign to raise awareness about the abuse of government power, the threat to our rights, and the path to replacing Danielle Smith with a government that puts working families first.

Attached is a poster to hang in your workplace to help spread the word.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with your local union president, Elaine Cardinal, if you have any questions.

In solidarity,
Lana Payne
National President

Gavin McGarrigle
Western Regional Director

Elaine Cardinal
Unifor Local 52A President

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