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**Memo #29**

Date: February 16, 2017

To: Executive/Members

Re: **Ratification Vote; Teacher and Early Childhood Educator School Supply Tax Credit;  
Molson-Coors Strike**

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**Ratification Vote**

To assist, the following items can be found in the Members' Area at [catholicteachers.ca](http://catholicteachers.ca):

- The full tentative extension agreement
- A summary of the key terms
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- Video messages from Ann Hawkins, OECTA President, and Noel LaPlante, Chief Negotiator

**Information will be sent to your personal email account you have set up with OECTA Provincial or the home address you have provided to the Board.** Therefore, please make sure that your current address is correct with the Board, in order, to avoid delays.

If you are having trouble creating an account or accessing the Members' Area, please fill out the [Member Login Request Form](#). OECTA staff will work with you to get the information you need.

Ratification vote information cards have been mailed out for distribution to the members. Members will either receive these in their school from their Association Representative or mailed directly to their homes. In addition, a small batch has been sent to each unit/bargaining unit office.

The voting information card is also posted online for your reference. To view the document:

1. Please visit the OECTA Home Page at <http://www.catholicteachers.ca/>
2. Navigate to Members' Area on the top right corner to input your login details.
3. The link to the voting instructions is found on the main Members' Area page.
4. Members may also find the link after they click on "[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS](#)" and select the link "[Voting Instructions](#)"

**Teacher and Early Childhood Educator School Supply Tax Credit**

Budget 2016 introduced a teacher and early childhood educator school supply tax credit for 2016 and subsequent taxation years. This measure will allow an employee who is an eligible educator to claim a 15% refundable tax credit based on an amount of up to \$1,000 of purchases of eligible teaching supplies by the employee in a taxation year.

The new tax credit can only be claimed by an eligible teacher or early childhood educator employed at an elementary or secondary school

To be an eligible supplies expense, the teaching supplies must be purchased in the taxation year, by an eligible teacher or early childhood educator to use in a school or in a regulated child care facility, for the purpose of, teaching or helping students learn.

Computers, tablets and rugs etc. are not eligible expenses because they are durable goods (which can be used repeatedly or continuously for a relatively long time) that are not included in the above list of durable goods that qualify as teaching supplies.

If you claim this tax credit, the CRA may ask you to provide a certification from your employer (or a delegated official of the employer) attesting to the eligible supplies expense. You should request the certification from your employer in a timely manner and keep it in your files, along with your receipts, in case the CRA requests it.

More information can be found at:

**<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2016/qa03-eng.html>**

### **Molson-Coors Strike - Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers (CUBGW), Component 325**

Members of the Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers (CUBGW), Component 325, went on strike on January 12 after their employer Molson Coors Canada refused to negotiate a fair and reasonable collective agreement.

The 320 brewery workers have been in bargaining since October 2015, but it became clear that the employer wasn't interested in reaching a deal. Instead it targeted retirement security, health and welfare benefits, training opportunities, and more.

Workers at Molson Coors are in a David and Goliath fight. They are up against the third-largest brewing company in the world.

The employer is demanding deep cuts to wages, pensions, and benefits. And it is only the workers that Molson Coors expect to make sacrifices. Their president and CEO makes over \$6 million a year. In the last six years, wealthy shareholders have received a 34% increase in dividends.

The National Union of Public and General Employees, of which CUBGW is a component, is requesting strike solidarity in the following ways:

- Send a message of support for the strikers to [Component325@nupge.ca](mailto:Component325@nupge.ca)
- Pass a resolution to support the strike
- **Support the partial boycott of Coors Banquet, Miller Lite and Miller Genuine Draft**

Please help to ensure these brewery workers are victorious in their struggle for a fair contract.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815  
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**