

**RE-ELECT SHERRY-ANN BOWEN-GORDON  
FOR  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



Fellow OSSTF members,

Thank you for trusting me to represent your voices as we navigate these critical times for Ontario's education system. Together, we will continue to protect and strengthen public education while advocating for the safety, equity, and well-being of every member.

Today, I ask for your continued support as we face the challenges ahead. *We Rise Together—OSSTF United* is more than a slogan; it reflects my belief that through teamwork, leadership, and collective action, we can create a stronger future for public education.

Growing up in Barbados, I learned early on the value of hard work, perseverance, and opportunity. Coming from humble beginnings, post-secondary education was not in my plans, but I was fortunate to earn a volleyball scholarship to the United States. This was a life-changing experience that opened doors I never could have imagined. That experience taught me how access to opportunities and education has the power to transform lives and a belief that inspires my shared fight for accessible, high-quality public education for all students and families.

As an Education Worker, Speech-Language Pathologist, and a Black woman, I am a fierce advocate for a union that works for all our members. I bring both lived experience and leadership rooted in resilience and dedication to fair representation for all.

My leadership journey began with grassroots organizing. Alongside a couple of resolute colleagues, we came together to unionize our bargaining unit, ensuring we had a collective voice to advocate for fairness and ensuring they felt valued, respected, and represented. That experience reinforced my belief that our strength as a union comes from standing united and lifting one another up.

Like many of you, life has tested me. I have faced challenges that knocked me down, but we cannot afford to stay down. We get up and fight! I recently celebrated 10 years cancer-free—a journey that required resilience, strength, and support from a community. These experiences have taught me the importance of rising after hardship, a lesson that resonates deeply with the work we do as union members. Together, we rise for each other, for our students, and for the communities we serve. During my cancer journey, I did not fight alone. I had a team—my doctors, who guided my care; my husband and children, who supported me with unconditional love; and my close friends, who lifted me up when I felt weak. That team carried me through one of the most challenging times in my life.

This personal experience has shaped my leadership philosophy. Just as I leaned on my team, I know that OSSTF must lean on the strength of its collective membership. An effective team is built on trust, collaboration, and shared purpose. Whether facing personal or professional challenges, we rise together when we work together.

While we all know that public sector unions across Ontario face significant challenges, now more than ever, we need to foster union solidarity, build bridges across sectors, and engage in meaningful coalition building with our affiliates, community organizations, and the broader labour movement.

This is a time when issues affecting our union will shake our solidarity and deepen divisions within our union. However, we cannot afford to lose sight of who we are truly fighting against or why we are standing together. We need to unite all members behind clear, member-driven bargaining agendas, leverage public support by highlighting the impact of underfunding on students and families and push for meaningful contract improvements that reflect the realities of member workplaces.

The road ahead will require bold leadership, but more importantly, it will require us to work as a team. Internal fractures only weaken our collective strength, and we cannot afford to let that distract us. Protecting workers' rights, preserving working conditions, and securing a brighter future for education will take all of us working together to build bridges, foster collaboration, and reaffirm our unity.

This is why I am asking for your continued support through your vote. As part of the team, together, we can take on any challenge. As OSSTF UNITED, we will protect what matters most and fight for the future of our members and the communities we serve. We are stronger when we stand for and with each other. We are OSSTF UNITED.

**We Rise Together!**