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**For immediate release**

**Statement**

**August 25, 2025**

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**The following statement was sent on behalf of Theresa McAllister, President of CUPE Local 2745 and the Inner Executive, issued in response to the statement from Rene Lagace, Financial Minister, released to the media.**

Good afternoon,

On July 29, 2025, the union received a decision from the Labour and Employment Board with respect to a complaint filed by CUPE 2745 on behalf of its membership (**see attached**). The hearing on this issue was expedited by the Labour Board in order to have a decision quickly, as this was an urgent matter.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, we asked the affected Districts to give us their plan of action with the expectation of implementing the order (**see attached**).

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, we filed the order with the Court of Kings Bench to have it enforced and asked the Finance and Treasury Board to enforce it within 24 hours.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, the government negotiator advised us that an application for a Judicial Review of the decision, which would include a request for a stay of the Board's Order, was filed. Also on this date, a statement was sent out "not directly to the union" by the Minister of Finance regarding the Labour Board Order (see attached).

When the layoffs first occurred, the union offered options to discuss and work on an alternate plan with the District Education Council, EECD, Premier's Office, Districts, Finance and Treasury Board, and at every level, they chose not to work with us and forge ahead with their plan.

This new government's mandate was to do things differently in regard to labour relations and a commitment to work collaboratively with unions out of respect for the workers they represent. They also stated that they would not fight us in the courts and work to develop better working relations with labour and unions.

We agree that more resources are required for direct support to students, but we disagree that School Library Work is not a direct support to students. All work of our union provides direct services to students, regardless of Minister Legacy's statement. We find the statement from the *Finance Minister* disrespectful, and we ask him to retract his comments.

As equal partners in the *Education system*, we provide valuable and important support, working to deliver the best possible education in New Brunswick.

We will continue to fight this battle as required in the court or the boardroom and are hopeful for a positive outcome that benefits students and our membership.

**For more information:**

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