

Good evening,

It has just come to my attention that staff members are being given some questionable information from principals following yesterday's ESMC. I have seen no new documentation saying that furniture with fabric surfaces needs to be removed from classrooms and staffrooms, if more than one person sits on the chair. I will be pursuing this with both QPAT and ESSB tomorrow and hope to have more information, but this is what you should keep in mind for now:

At no point in time was ESTA consulted or informed about this. We DID NOT agree to this and anyone telling you otherwise is lying.

This supposed regulation is not written anywhere.

Under NO circumstances should you be helping in removing any type of furniture.

This is not the first time that ESSB has claimed that the rules have changed only to backpedal when confronted.

I have attached the CNESST guidelines for desk chairs, these apply to chairs at teacher desks in classrooms and workrooms. Replacing a proper office chair with a plastic one is not a viable option.

I am quite troubled by the board's handling of changes in regulations and I strongly suggest that before complying with any supposed changes you ask your administrator for proof of any supposed new rules.

ESTA will continue to keep you informed and up to date on changes. Do not feel that you have to believe your principal when they say "the board says..." You should also not believe statements about the union agreeing to things, unless you have been informed by your union delegate or myself.

Tomorrow is t-shirt day and I urge you to wear yours, our slogan of "Things have to change NOW!" has never been more true!

Have a good evening,

Gillian