

Ottawa
CUPE
District Council

Newsletter Summer

CUPE 2073 ENDS 10 WEEK STRIKE PRESS RELEASE



CUPE Council organized a Solidarity Lunch on the 2073 picket line on March 23rd. Over 75 people came to show their support from several area Locals, the CUPE National Executive Board, and allied unions, including the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Staff Union.

The 227 workers with the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) returned to the jobs they love on May 15th, following a province-wide strike that began March 6th.

“I’m pleased to say that our members ratified the tentative settlement,” said Stacey Connor, president of Local 2073. “I’m so proud of these workers for walking the line for 10 weeks for fairness, respect, and high quality services,” said Connor, who is herself an employment services counsellor with the agency. “Because of their toughness, because they were so steadfast, we were ultimately able to secure a fair contract.”

The key issue in dispute during the strike was sick leave, but the workers had also gone four years without wage increases. The contract allows for wage increases in each of five years and a modest pension improvement. Crucially, it also replaces the existing sick leave plan with a comparably good plan.

CUPE 2073 STRIKE cont'd.

“We had no intention of being forced into a bottom-of-the-barrel sick leave plan that is not reflective of a workplace that’s been unionized for 40 years,” said Barbara Wilker-Frey, CUPE National Representative. “We are pleased to say we prevailed on that point.”

“Everyone is looking forward to getting back to serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and to providing vital services,” said Stacey Connor. “We are so grateful to the community for all the support shown us through the strike. They really sustained us with their understanding and support, and with their numerous picket line visits.”

“We hope that CHS is as interested as we are in moving forward together to provide high quality services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in a respectful workplace environment,” added Wilker-Frey. “We are there for that hard work, and we hope they are too.”

CUPE Local 2073 represents workers in 24 CHS offices across Ontario. They serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community by working as counsellors, literacy instructors, audiologists, speech language pathologists, interpreters and

interpreter trainers, clerical support, program coordinators, program assistants, and information technology specialists. 40% of the members of CUPE 2073 are Deaf, and 90% of them are women. *Source: <https://2073.cupe.ca/>*

The Ottawa CUPE District Council was proud to support 2073 members during their 10 week strike, with regular picket line support, a Solidarity Lunch and a rally at MPP Yasir Naqvi's office on May Day. For photos and video of the rally, visit us on Facebook or at ottawa.cupe.ca.



CUPE 5209 YMCA HOUSING SUPPORT WORKERS WIN EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK KIM BROUSSEAU, PRESIDENT

It took almost three years but we have successfully negotiated a hard fought First Contract that culminated in several different job classifications receiving rather large pay increases.

The Negotiating Committee asked our members what they wanted and our members responded. We were given an overwhelming mandate to ensure that full and part time employees be given equal pay for equal work; and of course everyone wanted

more money, since we had not gotten a raise in quite a few years. Both were achieved.

We have a contract that expires in the summer of 2020. All of our full time employees were given the smallest pay increase of 11.25% over the life of the contract. In order to equalize the full and part time rates of pay, our part-time Housing Support Workers were given the largest pay increase of 34.5% over the life of the contract.

CUPE 4266 ZIPTRACK/COVENTRY CONNECTIONS FIGHTS ATTACKS ON JOBS MARIE LALIBERTE, PRESIDENT

Local 4266-12 entered bargaining in the beginning of May. Since then the Bargaining Committee has met with Management twice. There have been several concessions put to the table by Management and as a result our members voted through a Strike Mandate with a 91.3% yes vote and a Conciliator has now been involved. Some of the concessions have been removed but some major ones that threaten to curtail the rights we currently have by a significant amount have not. The Bargaining Committee will be reconvening with Management on June 22nd and 30th and talks of a Strike Vote may continue if the concessions are not removed.

Since 4266-08 (call takers) were laid off in a mass lay-off and the Call Centre was moved to the Philip-

ines, we have been very concerned about lay-offs. We hope this new Collective Agreement will alleviate those fears with new lay-off language.

The Local Executive will be attending an arbitration hearing on August 21st in regards to 4266-08 severance packages, which were not paid out in full by Management. The Local is confident that the Arbitrator will see the gross negligence on Management's part and will award the members their rightful severance package.

Local 4266 will be keeping CUPE District Council up to date on developments and any solidarity actions that might be needed from the Ottawa labour community in the coming months.

CUPE 2424 AT CARLETON PREPARES TO GO IN TO BARGAINING THIS SUMMER PAM GRIFFIN-HODY, PRESIDENT

CUPE 2424 represents support and professional services staff at Carleton University. Our collective agreement expires on June 30. Our preparation began as the ink was drying on our last collective agreement in 2014. Preparation began in earnest in October 2016 with the forming of the Bargaining Assistance Team who prepared a bargaining survey for the members. This was sent in January 2017 with an excellent return rate of over 50% (of 850 members). The proposals were then written and those were also passed by the 2424 membership at a general meeting in March. Always with the mantra

of being prepared for any eventuality, CUPE 2424 has also prepared a strike aversion/preparedness budget which was passed by the membership at the general membership meeting in May. CUPE 2424 is doing (ongoing) work to mobilize the membership with a big bargaining kick-off event planned for June 22 and a BBQ in July. We are also planning for various communiques (using several platforms, including social media and in-person) over the next few months. We head into bargaining on July 5.

The Ottawa CUPE District Council will be producing this newsletter on a regular basis (at least quarterly). The purpose is to create a platform for Locals to stay up to date with what other Ottawa area Locals are up to. We are inviting Locals to share a few paragraphs about issues they are facing, upcoming bargaining, struggles or campaigns they are engaged in, upcoming events, and so on. We are hoping that this will help strengthen relationships between Locals in the Ottawa area and allow us to identify emerging issues and shared concerns around which we can collaborate. If your Local would like to share some news, please email us at ottawacupecouncil@gmail.com and we will include it in the next newsletter.

You can also find us on Facebook and check our website for regular updates.: ottawa.cupe.ca