

**Everyone
needs
support.**

BARGAINING BULLETIN



From your CAAT Support negotiating team

Thank you !!

On **July 16** we collectively made an important decision as support staff: to stand united for a contract that recognizes and rewards the work that we do.

With a 79 per cent vote rejecting the employer's offer, and a 69 per cent strike mandate, we showed we are firm in our resolve.

The team thanks everyone who mobilized, stayed connected, and voted. You were the foundation on which the team was able to achieve this strike mandate.

Much work is still to be done

While **this** strike mandate is significant, there is much work to be done. With our vote we told management we are ready to do what is **necessary** to get a deal. Now we have to show them we are ready with our activities in the upcoming month.

A flurry of activity will soon be starting at the Locals, with committees being set up, meetings for strike planning, and signing up for strike duties. This time we are more prepared than ever; almost 70 per cent of members province-wide have already signed up for strike duties.

If you haven't already signed up for strike duties, we would strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible at <http://www.caatsupport.x10hosting.com>

Contact your local strike committee to find out what needs to be done.

We have posted a lengthy Q and A to help you prepare for possible job action, including some helpful tips on managing your personal finances. The more prepared we are, the more management will understand the true nature of our resolve.

September **1st** – our most likely strike date – is not that far away.

We also need members to:

- Talk to students, faculty, friends and neighbours in order to build support for our
- cause;
- Talk to your brothers and sisters in the workplace about what we have achieved to-date, and what is needed to get a satisfactory deal done;
- Show your solidarity by wearing the “**Everyone needs Support**” buttons;

Let the college management know that your resolve goes beyond the strike vote. **Remind management every chance you get, that everyone does need support.** We have already made a difference. Now is the time to finish what we started.

Message from the Chair

During the past few weeks, bargaining team members visited every one of the 24 colleges. Thank you for the hospitality and the confidence you have shown us.

We now have a strike mandate to work with. It does not mean that we will take you out on strike. Our goal is a collective agreement that we can bring back to you and recommend for acceptance, not a strike.

On August 12, 13 and 14, we will return to the table to negotiate. We will be bolstered by the results of July 16 and will have the assistance of a provincial mediator.

I want to be perfectly clear, the only reason we would go out on strike is if management is not prepared to come back to the table and negotiate a deal. The only way a strike would be a long one is if management is not prepared to negotiate a deal.

We are committed to getting a deal done.

We continue to speak to you, the members, every day either in person, by telephone or by e-mail. Unlike the employer team, we are accountable to our members every day, not just for the day of a vote.

Over the next few weeks the colleges will have to consider what life will be without us and make the decision how seriously they want to bargain with us.

Some colleges have indicated that they will be open for business as usual if we go on strike, so let's be clear. Withdrawal of our support will have a devastating effect on the colleges.

For the rest of the summer we need to continue to show management we are prepared to do whatever it takes, up to and including any strike action, to get a collective agreement.

Once again, thank you for your support July 16. Let's do everything we can to ensure that when we go back to the bargaining table, management knows we are fully prepared to go on strike. Only then will we fully win their respect and gain a collective agreement that is fair, equitable and rewards the work we do.

In Solidarity,
Rod Bemister
Chair, 2008 CAAT Support Bargaining Team

For the latest bargaining update visit: www.opseu.org

Got questions? Contact the bargaining team at: bargaining@rogers.com