



CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, LOCAL 3906
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www.cupe3906.org

Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee

20 June 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Ontario University Workers Coordinating Committee,

On behalf of the bargaining team, strike support committee, executive and membership of CUPE local 3906, I would like to thank you for your support throughout these past six months of bargaining. In addition to intensive mobilization, outreach and strike preparation, it is due to your solidarity that we were able to reach an agreement with our employer that is historic for our Unit 2 members, the Sessional Faculty and Sessional Music Faculty of McMaster University. The membership voted to ratify the agreement yesterday.

I am pleased to report that the agreement contains a number of improvements to job security, benefits, leaves and wages. Among the gains are a limited right of first refusal, a Unit 1 seniority bridge, paid pregnancy, parental and adoption leave (a first for this unit), and a cumulative wage increase of between 12% (base rate) and 16.75% (seniority rate) over two years for Sessional Faculty and 13.25% over two years for Sessional Music Faculty. (More details can be found at the unit 2 section of our website, www.cupe3906.org.) We were also successful in achieving a 2010 expiration date, setting us within the coordinated bargaining window. I am also pleased to report that we successfully fought off all concessions, including language that would allow management to split up three-unit guarantees into one-unit guarantees and parachute candidates into 20 full-time positions, overriding seniority and the hiring process. These concessions would have been devastating to contracts in our sector, and our team was insistent that such language would not appear in our contract or anywhere else.

This contract would not have been possible without your commitments of support, your messages of solidarity, and your presence at rallies and events. We also appreciate the resources at our disposal through the committee, and look forward to developing the networks and infrastructures necessary for the kinds of grassroots mobilization and public outreach that is necessary for coordinated bargaining to succeed.

Please do not hesitate to call upon 3906 in the future for requests of solidarity. We wish our sisters and brothers luck in upcoming rounds of bargaining as we struggle collectively for dignity, equity and justice in our workplaces and beyond.

In solidarity,

Mary Ellen Campbell
President, CUPE local 3906