

Red Cross drivers reject tentative agreement.

CUPE, Red Cross reach tentative agreement.

CUPE MEMBERS ON STRIKE... FINANCIAL & PICKET LINE SUPPORT NEEDED!

APPEAL – FOR NEW CUPE MEMBERS ON STRIKE FOR FIRST CONTRACT

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

42 newly organized CUPE members went on strike June 7, 2010 to achieve a first collective agreement after an employer campaign of threats and intimidation.

Employed by the Red Cross, Mississauga & North Halton as TRANSHELP drivers for the Peel Region, the workers provide a vital service to the residents of the Peel community driving ambulatory people requiring dialysis, medical appointments as well as seniors and intellectually challenged adults attending day programs.

Currently, there are 14 different wage rates for 42 drivers ranging from \$12.37 to \$15.69 per hour. Compare this to Transhelp municipal drivers at \$27.00 per hour. In 2010 wages just marginally above minimum wage are not acceptable for such important work.

CUPE has history with workers who perform this work – 25 years ago members who delivered similar services were already making \$11.00 an hour. These workers are not seeking parity – but fairness – which is not a lot to ask for.



Intimidation for these workers started immediately after they certified as a union, when the employer decided they could no longer use the office as a base and instead they were relegated to the parking lot. Workers have been threatened with termination and have been documented and disciplined in extraordinary ways since bargaining for the first collective agreement began.

CUPE MEMBERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

PICKET LINE SUPPORT: Visit picket lines to show your support and solidarity. The main picket line is at the Head Office of the Canadian Red Cross in Mississauga, 5700 Cancross Ct (Corner Matheson & Cancross, east of Hurontario St., south of Hwy. 401). They are picketing from 7:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Please make donations payable to CUPE Local 966 with a note on the cheque indicating 'Red Cross Strikers Donation' and sent c/o Bridgette Osborne, 259 Traders Blvd. East, Unit #11, Mississauga, ON L4Z 2E5.

SOLIDARITY: Please help out in other ways by sending a message of solidarity to the local by going to <http://cupe.ca/action/red-cross-drivers> and by joining the facebook group Support RedCross Workers in Peel' and by sending a message to the Red Cross and their funders at <http://cupe.ca/action/red-cross-drivers> as well as to Cindy Malcolm, Director of Regional Operations, cindy.malcolm@redcross.ca or Emil Kold, Chair, Region of Peel chair@peelregion.ca or Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair, gary.carr@halton.ca and encourage them to get back to the table and provide these workers with a fair contract and respect.

Please help our sisters and brothers in whatever way you are able to. With our solidarity and their strength these workers will win the fairness they deserve.

In solidarity,

Fred Hahn
President

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer



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