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Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2010

Canadian Red Cross strike ends as drivers win first contract

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. – More than 40 drivers with Canadian Red Cross Mississauga Halton have ended their strike after ratifying a first collective agreement that provides a wage increase and brings fair play to the workplace.

“It took more than five weeks of a strike, but this group of underpaid workers has taken a big step toward a fair, living wage,” said CUPE National Representative Helen Gibb-Gavel. “The collective agreement also provides mechanisms for addressing working conditions such as washroom access and shelter during inclement weather.”

Under the one-year contract, the majority of drivers will receive an increase of about nine per cent.

The drivers, who joined the Canadian Union of Public Employees last year, provide transportation services for dialysis patients as well as seniors and persons with developmental disabilities attending day programs. Full, regular service is expected to resume Monday, said Gibb-Gavel.

Bargaining continues for 14 passenger assistants who also work for Canadian Red Cross Mississauga Halton in the Passenger Assistant Program.

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