

Ryan and Rennick walk the picket lines with CUPE local 855 in ground breaking strike

February 4, 2008

CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan and 2nd Vice President Candace Rennick joined striking local 855, inside/outside workers of the City of Kawartha Lakes, on their first morning of picket duty in town of Lindsay.

400 municipal employees walked off the job at 12:01 on January 4th.

"The major issues in the strike are of great significance to all workers in Ontario. Increasingly, we are seeing employers that are refusing to pay for benefits for those workers that wish to work beyond the age of 65" said Ryan.



Local 855 are taking on an issue that has implications for the entire labour movement. Every union in Ontario is facing this very question.

It is very important that every CUPE Local in the province send assistance both financially and members to assist in this historic struggle.

Candace Rennick CUPE Ontario's Second Vice President who joined Ryan on the picket lines said "The City of Kawartha Lakes is discriminating against older workers by eliminating benefits for members over 65. They have also attacked flexible working arrangements which have allowed a balance of work and family life for many members over the last several years. In many ways, this strike is about Respect".

The picket lines were in 4 locations and were packed and well organized. Buses arrived to drop off and pick up picketers.

The leadership of this local has done a fabulous job organizing the pickets.

Ryan also demanded that the Mayor of Kawartha Lakes City take responsibility and step in to resolve this strike.

"Contracting out provisions for this local is key. With more of our work being contracted out - we need to ensure we have the language in place to protect our communities, our jobs - this local is taking on that fight" said Sid Ryan.