

BARGAINING UPDATE

CUPE Local 966 - Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP)



Happy New Year !

It is now 2019, and your CUPE 966 – SHIP bargaining committee would like to wish everyone a happy new year! We sincerely hope that this year brings you peace, joy and a brand new (and fair!) Collective Agreement.

We have spent the early weeks of 2019 in bargaining with the employer. We are still making progress on non-monetary issues and talks are still collegial. There is agreement on some issues, and we expect to continue moving forward. We have scheduled three more bargaining dates in the spring.

Upcoming bargaining dates:

March 1, 2019, March 15, 2019, March 18, 2019

Reminder

To be added to the e-mail list for bargaining updates, send your email address to anyone on the bargaining committee or shippunit966@yahoo.com.

It is very important that we have everyone's contact information as bargaining moves along and we need to begin making important decisions as a group.

YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE

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CUPE966

Our priorities

Following a series of surveys, focus groups and outreach to members, we have identified the following priority areas for our bargaining unit:

- Benefits
- Wages
- Health and Wellness
 - Sick time
 - Bereavement leave

These issues will be at the forefront of our negotiations with the employer. It is understandable that as our cities become more expensive to live in, as the prices of basic necessities like groceries or utilities continue to rise and as our work lives become more intensified, we seek improvements to our compensation and to the benefits that we rely on to ensure that we are healthy and able to work.

Our proposals are not unreasonable. We believe that our proposals will help produce a better workplace with better staff retention, fewer vacancies and staff that are healthy and ready to provide the best service possible to the people who rely on us. But that doesn't mean that our employer will see things the same way. Bargaining isn't simply a matter of presenting reasonable proposals that the employer will accept. Without a union the employer would have all the power in determining your contract, but with a union you have some power too. Along with all your sisters and brothers in the union we can show our strength. The union is strongest when all its members get involved.

If we want to achieve our priorities, it is something we must do together. That is why we continue to ask members to share their contact information with the bargaining committee. Soon we may be calling on you to discuss what happens next. Right now, things are going well in bargaining, but that can change once we start to disagree on key issues.



We want to be able to bring back the best possible deal for you to vote on. To get there we may need to call on you and your sisters and brothers to get more involved. We hope that when we do, that you'll be available to give some extra time, whether it is to attend a meeting, to vote on upcoming activities to prepare to show the employer that you stand behind your union and your bargaining committee as they work toward a fair contract which respects the work that you do and allows you to provide necessary services to people in your community to the best of your ability.

We look forward to continuing to serve as your bargaining committee and working to get you a fair contract in 2019.

In solidarity,

Your 2019 Bargaining Committee; Nicole Abruscato, Erin McCabe, Carolyn King and Ochia Bennett.