

Bargaining Update – February 22, 2022

Since our last update the YUSA Bargaining committee has met with the employer on Feb 3rd and Feb 10th and we continue to exchange proposals with the employer.

Our next bargaining dates are on March 1st and 3rd. The employer has indicated that they will likely have all of their proposals on the table by March 3rd and similarly YUSA will likely also have provided all of our proposals by that time.

Once all proposals have been shared between the parties, we will begin a more focused phase of discussions about the proposals and counter proposals.

Despite the employer already saving millions of dollars due to Bill 124, which caps our wage increases to 1% per year (far less than inflation), the employer has also proposed major concessionary language. While we hope these concessionary proposals will be withdrawn and the employer will be reasonable in response to the improvements in contract language that we are seeking, we must be prepared for any eventuality.

We also want to note that our brothers and sisters in YUFA are also currently in negotiations and they are facing similar challenges in dealing with the employer. As a result, YUFA has announced they will be holding a strike vote between Feb 22nd and 28th.

Because YUFA's collective agreement expired several months before ours, they are further along in the bargaining process than we are, but we must be prepared for a similar possible outcome in our negotiations.

So while we continue to bargain in good faith, YUSA is being prudent and making preparations for the possibility of a labour disruption. If there is a labour disruption it is possible that the employer could terminate members' access to their York email accounts, so right now, as a first step, we are asking all YUSA members to provide us with a non-York email address that we can reach you at, as well as ensuring that the phone number and home address we have on file for you is correct. Please take a moment to update your contact information with us here:

<https://forms.gle/kgNcTpXAPfwP6nV96>

In closing, we would like to thank our brothers and sisters in CUPE 3903 who have been providing us with advice and assistance with strike preparedness. We are all stronger when all workers on campus unite together in common cause, and we stand in solidarity with all unions and student governments on campus. We will be taking further steps to increase our preparedness as negotiations progress and we will update the membership accordingly.

In Solidarity,
Your Bargaining Team