



PSAC-UPCE BARGAINING UPDATE



STAMP OUT
workplace unfairness!

Message from your PSAC bargaining team

November 22, 2008

Week One

The picket lines are solid. Members have stood together – shoulder to shoulder. You surprised CPC and have had more of an impact than they ever thought - all in the first week.

You have earned the respect of other PSAC members, CUPW and the broader labour movement for the stand that you have taken in difficult times. And you have done this through lawful, peaceful strike action.

It's about more than money.

Across the country CUPW rank and file members are coming out, in the hundreds on their own time to support UPCE/PSAC members on the line, They understand the importance of this fight to them and they recognize the courage that you are all showing – and they recognize that this is a battle not just for PSAC – but for them too.

The work you are doing on the line is not easy, it is not popular and it is tough.

Day after day this week, you have shown up in your parkas and your rain gear at all hours of the day and night. Members have faced down Riot Police in Montreal, bogus legal charges in Quebec, surly management, aggressive drivers, and injunctions in multiple locations across the country.

PSAC support is growing daily and will continue to get stronger. CUPW, labour councils, and other unions are taking notice and in ever increasing numbers are providing support on the lines, in the workplace and with politicians.

Others in the labour movement realize what is at stake and they don't like it any more than we do.

CPC tried injunctions - they are not working. Individual managers are calling people at home, they are trying to intimidate, they are trying persuasion, misdirection and misinformation. In fact, they have tried everything but coming back to the table to negotiate a fair deal.

This is all because you have made an impact – CPC wasn't prepared for this. If you weren't being effective CPC wouldn't dare - and they wouldn't care.

Your bargaining team members remain on standby in the event that there is a possibility of returning to the table. They need you to continue to do what you have done this past week – so that CPC will come back to the table for a fair deal.

Bargaining Chronology

- The union made an effort through the mediator on November 15 to see if the employer's position had changed from the offer that was rejected by the team on November 7
- The bargaining team did not meet with CPC and there were no face to face negotiations
- On the evening of November 16 Canada Post tabled a single copy of their "final offer" through the mediator – this offer was null and void in the event of a strike
- Team members met via conference call November 17 and 18 to review the language of the offer provided by CPC
- The 18th of November your bargaining team rejected the employers offer
- This rejection has been communicated to CPC via the mediator
- Your bargaining team remains on standby for a response