



# BARGAINING BULLETIN

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## Six steps backward: City tables new concessions

City negotiators appear to be making a deliberate attempt to undermine the bargaining process. Is this just an orchestrated charade designed to provoke a labour disruption?

The City of Toronto added new concessions to its long list of take-aways on the weekend. It was just the latest indication of how this round of negotiations is significantly more frustrating than all previous rounds of bargaining. The new concessions concern a reduction in the eyeglasses benefits, elimination of the Employment Insurance rebate for members covered by the Unit B agreement; a reduction of the hours of work for an additional classification in the Long Term Care agreement; a 48-hour notice for changes to 12-hour shifts for EMS workers, and the elimination of all seniority scheduling rights in the Unit B part-time agreement.

Local 79 vows to continue to bargain to a settlement over the next two weeks. But this could prove extremely difficult if City negotiators continue to add to the list of concessions on the table. Hence, our decision to file the bad faith bargaining charges.

### In who's interest?

Once again bargaining through the media, Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday in a Sunday Sun column claimed to be negotiating on behalf of the public, the residents of Toronto. Many of his City negotiating team's proposals will have negative consequences for many city residents.

We ask: Is it in the interest of the public to cut the hours of Long Term Care workers so that elderly residents are left with no staff interface at shift changes to ensure their continuity of care? Is it in the Interest of Torontonians to cut back on respite care for seniors, including those with cognitive impairment, in our Adult Day Programs? Is it in the interests of the public to jeopardize recreation programs by shutting down the scheduling rights of experienced part-time workers?

Most importantly, is it in the public interest to gut job security provisions to allow thousands of good full-time City jobs to disappear and have more people placed on the unemployment rolls? This, in a city that is already experiencing one of the highest unemployment rates in the country?

These are some of the tough questions that the City avoids and politicians duck on their talk show. It's become clear they only represent their narrow political interests, banging their hard-line war drum in the media in a deliberate and desperate attempt to shore up their City Administration that is nose-diving in the polls.

But we won't play their political game. City workers will always have a community of interest with the public, regardless of the regime in power at City Hall. Your Local 79 Bargaining Committee is determined to reach agreements that uphold the interests of our members, and also serve the needs of the community we serve.

## All out to Information Meetings

Local 79 members will have an opportunity to examine the City's proposals in depth at the information meetings we will be holding across the city all this week. It is vitally important that all members understand what's at stake in these negotiations, the most challenging round of bargaining in our history. The meetings are also an important opportunity for members to show support for your Bargaining Committee in these tough negotiations.

Check for dates and times of the information meetings online at in by launching the Members' Portal from our website's Member Zone ([www.cupelocal79.org](http://www.cupelocal79.org)).

In solidarity,



Tim Maguire  
President

On behalf of your Local 79 Bargaining Committees:

Tim Maguire, Nancy Murphy, David Kidd, Ainsworth Hamilton, Sofia Reno, Lily Chang, Garth Barry, Jason Desjardins, Deborah Dixon, Sandra Higginson, Beverley Pike, Yvonne Bell, Simon Collins, Doug Jones, Tannis Khan, Maria Kolominsky, Myrna Mandani, Daphne Penton, Mary Villa

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