



# **BARGAINING BULLETIN**

**VOL.13**

## **Local 79 members have public support: Poll**

Over the past few days, the huge turnout of Local 79 members to our emergency membership meetings showed tremendous support for the Bargaining Committee. The members' attention to the issues we presented, and their comments and questions indicated that they understand the extreme gravity of these negotiations.

It should come as no surprise that a majority of the citizens of Toronto support Local 79 members in our battle for a fair contract. An Environics poll commissioned by CUPE National revealed that a majority of Torontonians believe City workers are "critically important" to City services, and that fully 77 per cent believe that cuts to staffing will harm those services. A majority of the public is also opposed to the City's aggressive and threatening approach to negotiations in this round. A majority will even continue to support us if we are forced to strike – a significantly improved finding from previous polls.

We certainly hope that this poll will help focus the City negotiators on the job of reaching a fair contract that serves everyone's interests. As we reported in our last bulletin, the City negotiators added six new take-aways to their long list of concessions last week. In response, Local 79 filed a bargaining in bad faith complaint against the employer at the Ontario Labour Relations Board. We want the Labour Board to order the City to remove these new items from the table. We have requested the Board expedite the hearing on the matter. Meanwhile, the two sides continue to bargain.

### **Our position is reasonable**

We are fully aware of the tough economic times and the City's desire to reduce costs. That's why we have not made demands that will result in higher costs to the City above the rate of inflation. However, this does not mean that the City should get the green light to gut our employment security and layoff provisions in order to pave the way for a wholesale privatization and contracting out of services. Studies from many other jurisdictions show that privatizing public services does not save money in the long run; in fact, it just makes cities beholden to private, for-profit contractors and opens the door to corruption.

### **Latest City offer continues concessions on job security, redeployment, scheduling and benefits**

Your Local 79 Bargaining Committee received another offer from the City on March 15, which amended some of their concessions. However, their major attacks on our job security, redeployment provisions and shift scheduling remain to be resolved.

Our redeployment process does not stop the City from shedding workers, but it does soften the blow for those who lose their jobs. The City has not tabled an acceptable proposal to replace our existing language. The City is attacking scheduling by seniority in all three Part-Time bargaining units. The bottom line is that the City wants managers to have the right to pick and choose who gets what shift, leaving scheduling open to favouritism and making it more difficult for part-time workers to have a decent quality of life.

The City is also sticking to its position to cut an hour off the shifts for all classifications in Long Term Care, amounting to a wage cut nearing 7 per cent for full-timers. The City is also insisting upon rollbacks to our benefits package amounting to a 10 per cent cut in benefits for all members. They also are proposing to cut payments for both new and old sick-pay plans.

## **It's time for members to show strong support**

Your Local 79 Bargaining Committee is working long and hard in an attempt to achieve four Collective Agreements with the City that will be fair to Local 79 members. The large attendance at the emergency meetings this week showed that members support their efforts. Stay tuned!

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