



BARGAINING BULLETIN

VOL.4

The City negotiates through the media

Doug Holyday, chair of City Council's labour relations committee, went public in the media about our bargaining this week. But his version of events is not what is actually happening. Since Holyday is not sitting at any bargaining table, we are suspicious of the City's agenda.

Holyday wants you to believe that a negotiated settlement is not possible. But in fact, we are in the very early stages: The City's own negotiators have not yet finished outlining their proposals – in fact, they have yet to touch upon three of the four collective agreements under negotiation-- and we have yet to present all of our proposals. We are in the very preliminary stages of the bargaining process.

Councillor Holyday is deliberately bargaining through the media and engaging in scare-tactics. The City's end-game may be to goad Local 79 members into accepting concessions that dramatically reduce job security, with private operators waiting in the wings to take over our services.

Don't buy into the City's not-so-hidden agenda.

Local 79's objective is to negotiate four fair collective agreements for our members and work with the City to preserve the vital public services that residents depend upon. To the extent that the City negotiators believe in this goal – and their own website states that as their objective -- then we will reach a settlement.

We are proud of the high level of services Local 79 members provide for the citizens of Toronto, and the City should be, too. Over the years, the City has set a high standard in promoting good jobs and quality services for all. It should continue to do so.

Where we're at and what could happen

Even though your collective agreement "expired" on Dec. 31, all of your terms and conditions of employment continue to apply. The collective agreements will remain in force until we sign new ones, or 17 days after the Ontario Minister of Labour issues a "no board" report. The dispute then enters an "open period" when:

- Your terms and conditions of employment can be legally changed by the City, or
- The City could lock you out of your workplace, or

- The City could call for a Ministry of Labour supervised vote by Local 79 members on the City's last offer, or
- Local 79 could call a strike vote, or
- Both sides could continue bargaining to a settlement.

Local 79's goal continues to be to reach a negotiated settlement.

Stay informed: Website portal and telephone town halls

Rumours will continue to circulate about what the City is up to. Most of these are generated by low-level managers. The best way to get the information you need is through your union. Thousands of members have registered on our Members' Portal at cupelocal79.org. This is the quickest way to communicate with you.

Your Local 79 Executive was heartened by the participation in our Telephone Town Hall of December 29 when thousands of members were on the line. We plan to host Town Halls regularly throughout the bargaining process.

In this crucial round of negotiations, your continued attention and support will ensure that we succeed in negotiating a fair settlement.

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