



BARGAINING BULLETIN

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Local 416 settles, but bargaining continues for Local 79

Local 416 and the City reached a tentative contract settlement on the weekend. It's premature to speculate on the contents of the settlement, or the impact on Local 79 negotiations, until Local 416 members have an opportunity to review and ratify it.

Once the Local 416 agreement is ratified by both parties, we fully expect the City's focus to turn to Local 79 bargaining. Our objective remains to negotiate four fair collective agreements for our members. We are not interested in bargaining through the media.

The tactics employed by the City in bargaining with Local 416 tell us what we can expect when our negotiations heat up. Toronto residents are relieved at the outcome of those talks, but many were also appalled by the City's very public "take it or leave it" stance, and its threat to impose new stringent "terms and conditions" on Local 416 members.

Local 79 is not Local 416. We have four bargaining units, three of which encompass thousands of part-time workers. We have more than 400 job classifications, covering a variety of important City services. Our bargaining is necessarily complex, and our bargaining requires a different approach.

Local 79 and the City have set bargaining dates until the end of February, but we expect that at some point fairly soon, the City will escalate the talks toward a deadline. To initiate a deadline, a "no board" report must first be requested, and this has not yet happened.

Public services help the economy, research shows

On Friday, Feb. 3, your Local 79 Bargaining Committee gave a comprehensive response to the City on non-monetary issues for full-time members.

We also presented our economic forecast to City negotiators. It showed that cuts to public spending, such as those pushed by the Ford agenda, actually damage the economy. Austerity measures do not aid economic recovery -- they compound the weaknesses by taking money out of the economy.

The City's Core Service Review, conducted by the KPMG consulting firm, will lead to more cuts in services, contracting out and privatization. This means good-paying jobs will turn into more low-wage jobs for Toronto.

Our research also shows the intrinsic value of public services to our city, in combating public health problems like obesity, caring for seniors and housing homeless people. This has a ripple affect in

reducing ambulance costs and hospital stays. Public daycare expands the economy by enabling women to enter the labour force. Recreation programs promote fitness and reduce long term health costs.

The bottom line: We are not negotiating in a dire economic climate, and cuts to jobs and services will further weaken Toronto's economy.

The days ahead

We were heartened by the thousands of members who responded to our Telephone Town Hall last Thursday, Feb. 2. Your continued support will make all the difference as we move ahead in these negotiations. We strongly urge you not to listen to rumours or the media. In the end, it's what is negotiated at the bargaining table that counts.

In the days ahead, we urge all members to register through our Members' Portal on the website. Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about the importance of City services and jobs to Toronto's economy and the well-being of residents. Tell them that Local 79 does not want a labour disruption, but that we are determined to protect our Collective Agreements and public services.

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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