



# BARGAINING BULLETIN

VOL.9

## Focus soon to be on Local 79 negotiations

Your local 79 Bargaining Committee and the City of Toronto negotiators have nearly completed another full exchange of proposals for all four Collective Agreements.

Both Local 416 and the City have now ratified the contract settlement that was reached on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Local 416 members beat back many of the worst concessions in the face of an all-out attack by the Ford Administration. Most importantly, the 416 settlement showed that the City and the union negotiated compromises on some of the City's opening proposals on key issues of employment security and redeployment and benefits. It was the best that Local 416 could hope for given the circumstances.

The City's bargaining focus will soon turn to Local 79. It remains to be seen whether the City will now consider that the key features of the Local 416 settlement have created an iron framework to be forced upon Local 79 in the same way the City did to Local 416.

We will continue to emphasize the fact that bargaining between the City and Local 79 requires a different approach. We reiterate that Local 79, unlike Local 416, has four bargaining units. Three of them encompass thousands of part-time workers. We have more than 400 job classifications, covering a variety of important City services. We will not be deterred from our goal to obtain the best possible settlements for our members.

Bargaining dates have been scheduled until the end of February, and a "no board" report has not yet been requested. We remain uninterested in bargaining through the media. Rest assured, however, that your bargaining committee continues to work hard on your behalf, in the midst of an extremely tough negotiating environment.

## Toronto becoming a haven for low-wage, precarious jobs

A major study published recently by the *Globe and Mail* found that Toronto is becoming a ghetto for low-wage "precarious" work in Canada. More and more people are struggling to juggle two or three part-time jobs just to make ends meet. It costs a lot to live here. So much for a "world-class city" -- Toronto City Council should be ashamed of this track record.

As by far the largest single employer in Toronto, the City should set a good example by maintaining good jobs, not by creating more low-paying ones. Yet that's exactly what the City is doing by contracting out building cleaning, turning cleaning into near-minimum wage jobs. The City should also be concerned about the impact of creating more precarious working hours for part-time employees with its proposals to

strip scheduling provisions in the Collective Agreements. And that's what they propose to do when they talk to us about needing more "flexibility" in scheduling.

These are just some of the issues that will be at play as we get down to the wire in these negotiations. We are determined to stand up for City services and beat back the many concessions that the City has placed on the table. The events of the past week showed us that the residents of Toronto are in no mood for a major labour disruption, and the City negotiators know that, too.

Once again, we encourage you to register through the Members' Portal on our website, at [www.cupelocal79.org](http://www.cupelocal79.org). We are heartened that thousands of you already have. It is important for you to stay well informed in the days ahead, as the City turns to focussing on our bargaining. It will also become even more important to support your Local 79 Bargaining Committee as the pressure grows toward a fair settlement that protects our jobs and preserves City 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

2/16/12