

November 18, 2011

Local 79 Bargaining Update for City of Toronto Members

Highlights:

- Local 79 Requests Comprehensive Financial Disclosure
- City attempts to panic and frighten members
- City's own timeline of events is questionable, at best

On November 16, CUPE Local 79 sent a written request to the City of Toronto for comprehensive financial disclosure covering the years 2009 to 2011.

Since the City has repeatedly claimed that it faces a projected deficit of \$774 million to justify seeking millions of dollars in concessions from its unions in this round of bargaining, we have requested on several occasions that they provide accurate and complete information about the City's finances. To-date, the City's response has been to request bargaining meetings without providing the level of disclosure needed for Local 79 to have a clear picture of the City finances in order to be fully prepared for bargaining.

By publicly posting the status of negotiations, the City is attempting to bypass your Local 79 Executive and Bargaining Committee. It is the worst sort of fear-mongering, designed to frighten you into accepting poor collective agreements that hurt members. It is also extremely hypocritical for the City to state that they don't intend to bargain in the media, then proceed to post information on the City's public website.

We strongly urge Local 79 members to stand together, support your Local 79 Bargaining Committee and **ignore misleading information and fear-mongering coming from the City.**

The City says it is negotiating to:

- *Obtain necessary improvements to modernize its collective agreements to ensure it has the ability to effectively deliver its core services to the public*
- *Change costly and restrictive collective agreement provisions that hinder the effective management of the City*
- *Achieve cost containment measures in order to be able to continue to provide its services in the future.*

Local 79 believes that the City is really negotiating to:

- Gut your collective agreement and roll it back past the Dark Ages right into the Stone Age
- Give themselves free rein to delete positions, lay you off, change your hours and days of work and eliminate your seniority rights as they see fit
- Take away rights we've fought 70 years to gain, and achieve measures that enable the City to contract out your work and to pay much lower wages and benefits to the members who are left.

The City also posted a 'timeline' on its website which it claims is a "chronology of key events."

However, their chronology is not accurate which is evident upon careful reading of the City's public statement.

Local 79 will continue to demand that the City provide complete and accurate information about the City's finances to defend your collective agreements against the City's attempt to extract millions of dollars in concessions.

Your Local 79 Executive and Bargaining Committee will continue to keep you updated as this round of negotiations unfolds. Once again, we urge you to support your Bargaining Committee and not fall into the trap of believing the City's misleading information and fear-mongering.

In Solidarity,

Your Local 79 Executive

Ann Dembinski, President
Tim Maguire, First Vice-President
David Kidd, Vice-President – Chief Steward
Ainsworth Hamilton, Vice-President Equity
Nancy Murphy, Recording Secretary
Linda Rose, Membership Secretary
Lily Chang, Treasurer