



### **Quick Update for November 8th, 2022**

I know we're all a bit burnt out and exhausted from a few whirlwind days so I'm gonna keep this as short as possible.

**Strike Pay** – I've been told by Janna and our team that strike pay cheques for all members will be available starting tomorrow in our office. Unfortunately because of the issues with the OSBCU database, we were unable to electronically transfer funds to members and individual cheques needed to be issued for each day on the picket line. Members will have to come to the office and pick up and sign for their cheques themselves. Please bring identification to the office in case anyone in the office doesn't recognize or know you. The office will be open from 8am – 4pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Cheques will be issued for each day in the amount of \$85 which breaks down to \$60 strike pay from CUPE National and the \$25 top up from our Local strike fund.

**HWDSB Pay** – I got a call from the employer this morning with an unexpected situation. Because this week is a pay week, all permanent members will be receiving a full pay this week as the cutoff to send the deposit to the bank was prior to our job action starting on Friday. This puts our permanent members in an overpayment position which nobody wants. Instead of leaving every permanent member to make payback arrangements with HR, I made the decision to have two days pay taken off the next pay scheduled for November 24<sup>th</sup>. Casual members pay is two weeks behind so those days will come off as they normally would on the next pay period.

**Flags & Pics from the Line!** - If any of our members have flags from the picket line, we are asking that they be returned to the Local office when you come pick up your cheques. These are property of the Local and used for parades, protests and anything else where we need to get involved and cost us money to purchase. Also, if anyone has any good or fun pictures from the picket line, please send them to the office at [cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca](mailto:cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca) and we can use them for our website and future updates and maybe when Central and Local bargaining is all done and wrapped up and we can plan a big social outing for everyone we can put together a nice big slide show to share with everyone to remember what we've accomplished together.

**Picket Captains Bags** – If you're a picket captain, can you please bring back your picket captains kit to the office when you come and pick up your strike pay cheques? Please and thank you from all of us!

I want to just share a couple brief thoughts about our current situation.

Imagine for a moment that the labor movement was as unified and organized in the past as we were yesterday.

I can assure you that if Doug had not put in writing that Bill 28 would not be repealed as if it never existed – the message from Mark Hancock, Laura Walton and all the other labor leaders would have been VERY different and had a direct impact on everyone living in Ontario.

Imagine if about 10 years ago we had been this unified and fought back on Bill 115. Imagine if 3 years ago we were this unified and fought back on Bill 124. We are in a much stronger bargaining position now than we were just a few weeks ago when we voted 96% in favor of a Central strike. It's not just CUPE eyes on the bargaining table now – it's eyes from OPSEU, LIUNA, OFL, IATSE, ETFO, OSSTF and a range of others as well – all committed to getting in the fight if we can't negotiate a fair deal with the government.

WE GOT THIS. And now it looks a little brighter for us than when the day started yesterday.

In solidarity,

Blake