

November 2, 2016

UMFA Strike Update Day 2

Dear Colleagues,

We have five picket lines, with five shifts per day, and today every one was bigger and stronger than yesterday. More and more UMFA members are standing up for a university that values teaching and research -- and our momentum is building.

We're receiving incredible support from students and the wider community. Supporters have greeted us on picket lines with handshakes, applause, and surprise deliveries of coffee, muffins, and even big bags of McDonald's breakfasts!

Today the Manitoba Teachers Society not only sent hearty food to our Strike HQ, they also issued a strong directive to all students and teachers: "don't cross the picket line as this is a legal strike."

Today at noon we resumed negotiations via a provincially appointed conciliator. We again identified our main issues:

- Protection against arbitrary workload increases;
- Fair assessment practices;
- Job security for all UMFA members.

Of course I'll let you know as soon as any news emerges out of conciliation.

Today I was proud to be among the UMFA members at the Canadian Federation of Students Day of Action at the Legislative Building. We all share a common interest in high-quality, accessible education.

So many of you have been joining the strike that parking around our Strike HQ at 65 Trottier Bay has become a bit of a challenge. Please don't let this discourage you from dropping by to share in the camaraderie (and the food!). Busses and shuttles are available to take you to the picket line. However, if you would prefer to make your own way to your line, you are welcome to do so -- please be sure to arrive a bit early and sign in with your picket captain.

Finally, if you have not (yet) joined the strike, but you still want to help us prevent more arbitrary workload increases, it is not too late. You will NOT be disciplined for going on strike – that is the law. And you will be entitled to receive all strike benefits from the day you join the strike. Even if you already told administration you would continue working, it is not too late to join us, and it's easy to do: fill in this [form](#) and send it to your Dean. Contact our Vice President, Janet Morrill, if you have questions: morrilljanet@gmail.com. Lots of members have already done so.

In solidarity,

Mark Hudson

PS: We're planning a big rally with community supporters on Friday at lunchtime. Mark your calendar and plan to join us! I'll send more details tomorrow.