

Update from Strike HQ: picketing, tweeting and socializing

November 9, 2016

Dear Colleague,

There was no face-to-face bargaining with Administration today, but our team has been talking with the conciliator throughout the day to continue the bargaining process.

Today, I spent the day with colleagues at Bannatyne campus who are showing tremendous strength on the line. Our chief bargainer, Robert Chernomas, has also been going line-to-line talking with members and answering questions about bargaining. I'd like to remind you that I will be available tomorrow afternoon, November 10, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. at strike HQ to meet one-on-one with members and to answer your questions.

Have you joined the Twitter-verse yet? In addition to our website, you can find a lot of updated information throughout the day by checking our Twitter feed. On Twitter, we share photos that members are taking on the picket lines, we post our daily leaflet and other updated information, as well as messages of support and encouragement from students, staff and colleagues from across the country. We usually send and share multiple tweets every hour. Don't worry if you don't have an account or have never used Twitter before. You don't need to sign up or learn how to tweet to see the info in real time. Just visit twitter.com/UMFA_FAUM.

If you haven't yet heard, PAWS (**P**eople **A**ll **W**orking in **S**olidarity) welcomes you and your family tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM to strike HQ at 65 Trottier Bay for a get-together featuring live jazz entertainment provided by the Faculty of Music's Mellowtones of Mirth. We will be providing sushi, and any drinks or snacks you wish to contribute are most welcome.

Strike benefit cheques will be available for pickup at strike HQ tomorrow for last week's efforts. Remember that strike benefits are non-taxable and will have no deductions from it. UMFA also pays all benefits, such as life insurance, supplementary health coverage, and LTD premiums for members on strike. That means you can still go to the dentist or the physiotherapist or purchase prescriptions: everything that you would have claimed before the strike can still be claimed. In order to receive strike benefits, you must contribute 2 hours per day of strike support duty. Also, don't forget that if you do strike duty on each weekday, you also receive strike pay for the weekend. Cheques may be picked up on Monday at UMFA strike HQ, 65 Trottier Bay. For members who are concerned further about the finances, UMFA will begin accepting applications to our hardship fund tonight. The form to apply to the hardship fund will be up on our website FAQ soon.

I'd like to apologize to members for the missed update yesterday. We had sent it out, but technical difficulties resulted in it not arriving in your mailboxes. However, you should have all received it early this morning. As you can imagine, temporary infrastructure is not without its challenges. Please continue to check your UM addresses for daily strike updates.

Finally, a reminder that Remembrance Day is this Friday and as such, there will be no picketing and strike HQ will be closed.

In solidarity,

Mark Hudson
UMFA President