

**CUPE Local 791 – Stronger Together!**

As you may know, our collective agreement with the City of Kitchener expired this March and we have now been bargaining for a new contract for over five months. While we have made significant progress on non-monetary issues, we remain far apart on discussions concerning monetary issues, with the Employer mandated by City Council to hold their position.

We want you to know that we are working very hard to ensure we get a fair deal without having to resort to taking action – however, we must keep in mind that we need to be treated with respect. Having said that, we have requested to have a neutral third party come and assist us to see if we can come to an agreement that is acceptable for everyone.

Last year, outside workers with the City of Kitchener, represented by CUPE 68, received wage increases of 1.35 per cent for each year of their contract – among other improvements to their collective agreement. At this point, our offer is still considerably lower.

We now have a strike deadline of September 11 with a scheduled meeting date of September 5 so that we may try and resolve our outstanding issues. In order for City Council to amend their mandate, we need to show them that we are united and strong...that we will not be treated any differently than our counterparts.

With that in mind, we are asking members to show their support by wearing “RESPECT” buttons in the workplace leading up to the September 5meeting date. Please join us for Picket Captain training taking place on September 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the local office (451 Ottawa Street) – we hope to see you there. We are also asking that you spread the word and encourage members to stand in solidarity with us, your bargaining committee – together, we are stronger!

Please contact us at (226) 647-5557 or via email at cupelocal791@rogers.com if you require more information or have questions.

In solidarity,

*Your CUPE 791 Bargaining Committee*

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