

CUPE LOCAL 3903's STRIKE DATE NEARS

- why won't CUPE 3903 agree to binding arbitration?

The Extraordinary Cost of CUPE Local 3903's Demands

With the strike date nearing, CUPE Local 3903 continues to demand:

- increases in wages, benefits and other monetary provisions in excess of \$70 million or 112%
- including wage increases in excess of 30%, over a two year period.

This is notwithstanding the fact that York University's TAs, contract faculty and GAs enjoy wages and benefits that are among the best in Canada, a fact which is acknowledged by CUPE Local 3903.

In view of the very difficult budget situation the University is already facing, including 2% budget cuts in each of the next three years, and the impact of the global financial crisis, **it is clear that CUPE Local 3903's demands are unrealistic and unaffordable.**

The University Repeats Its Offer of Binding Arbitration

CUPE Local 3903 has repeatedly indicated in negotiations that it is prepared to call a strike. In continuing to reject the University's proposal for independent, third-party binding arbitration, CUPE Local 3903 has stated that "binding arbitration is not a workable solution". For whom? The University continues to propose binding arbitration to ensure that the academic program of its 50,000 students is not disrupted.

Why won't CUPE Local 3903 put the University's students first and agree to binding arbitration?

What Will Happen If CUPE Local 3903 Calls a Strike?

1. Suspension of Classes

As announced last week, the Deans of all Faculties have, in conjunction with the Chair of Senate and with the endorsement of the Vice-President Academic and Provost, agreed that academic activities (with certain specified exceptions) will be suspended in their Faculties in the event of a strike by CUPE Local 3903.

A copy of the Notice concerning Suspension of Academic Activities is available at:

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate/committees/exec/suspension_of_academic_activitie.htm

2. Cessation of Bargaining Unit Pay and Work

Should CUPE Local 3903 go on strike, employees represented by the Union will not be paid and will not be invited to work during a strike.

3. Picketing

The University will attempt to negotiate a picketing protocol with CUPE Local 3903 in order to ensure the safe and orderly access to and exit from the University for non-striking faculty and staff, as well as for students wishing to make use of campus facilities, in the event that CUPE Local 3903 calls a strike. There will be no picketing permitted on University property and there will be no strike-related equipment such as blockade gates permitted on University property.

Further Updates

As necessary, the University administration will continue to communicate with students, faculty and staff about the University's strike contingency plans. We will make every effort to provide the University community with timely information and instructions relating to strike procedures and the implications for students and employees should CUPE Local 3903 decide to strike.

Future updates will be provided as new developments occur. You may view updates at
<http://webapps.yorku.ca/negotiationsupdates/Updates.aspx?a=CUPE3903>