

CUPE Local 3550 Negotiation Update: Sept 27, 2024

Our bargaining committee has reached impasse after completing three days of mediation, beginning September 24 and ending this afternoon.

Our committee worked hard to finalize agreement on nonmonetary items, and we settled on language that allowed us to check these off. Unfortunately, there has been no movement at all on wages beyond the government mandate of 2.75% (which would amount to approximately 73 cents total for the full 4 years). Achieving an agreement that better reflects our compensation needs remains the overarching priority of our members. At this time, the monetary proposal from the employer remains far too out of line with expectations. We are not prepared to accept this horrible wage offer.

The mediation process having not resulted in any monetary improvements means that the next step in front of us is to prepare for a strike position.

As your bargaining committee, we have carefully considered the options in what continues to be our obligation to push for the outcomes our members deserve and expect. We are confident that the work our Local has done to prepare for this puts us in a position of strength. We know that better is possible and we appreciate the collective support our local members are receiving from each other, from the community, and from other labour allies.

We are fighting for a deal that respects the vital role we play in the lives of Alberta's families – ensuring not only that we can continue to provide the high-quality services and supports students deserve but also that we can take care of ourselves and our own families.

We know that we cannot accept these conditions. That is why we will be calling on every member to help put the pressure where it's needed to win the wage increases we need. We are our strongest when we are waging ahead together.



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What this means currently is members should go to work as usual. We can still be called back to the bargaining table at any time. We will enter a 14-day cooling off period after receiving the write out from the mediator. A strike vote for possible job action can happen at any time after the 14 days.

Please continue to share our sign up action on the website (<https://3550.cupe.ca/>) and watch for an additional update coming shortly. We will also be holding town hall meetings to ensure members have a chance to hear more information and ask questions. Your feedback and participation are important as we work together through these next steps.

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President CUPE Local 3550



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