

CUPE Local 973.01 Media Update on Collective Bargaining

Negotiations on the new Collective Agreement between CUPE local 973.01 and the employer the Corporation of the County of Wellington have stalled after several full bargaining days since January 2023. Since the last bargaining day in May 2023, the Union has filed for Conciliation and dates have been set for July 24th and 25th 2023.

CUPE local 973.01 is the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the employees of the Social Services Department for the corporation save and except supervisors, persons above rank of supervisor, persons employed for not more than 24 hours per week, and students. The Department includes Children's Early Years, Ontario Works, and Social Housing. CUPE 973.01 is the only Union at the County of Wellington and represents approximately 18% of the total number employees at the County of Wellington.

During the pandemic, Social Services unionized employees remained on the frontline ensuring service continuity and even increasing service delivery. A number of CUPE members were redeployed to other departments and organisations throughout the county such as the Wellington Terrace and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health to assist on the front lines. These Unionized members went above and beyond.

CUPE local 973 slogan is “Working for our Community” and members of the local 973.01 are the backbone of Social Services for the County of Wellington and the City of Guelph, working on the frontline providing essential services to the public. Our members provide high quality early education and care for families in our community, essential housing, life stabilization, and financial support for those who need it most. That is exactly what our members want to continue to do. They want to continue to work for our community and provide the best services possible.

In this post pandemic economy, CUPE local 973.01 members are only asking to be afforded equality that has been afforded to all employees at the County of Wellington.

CUPE local 973.01 is committed to working towards an equitable agreement and share the similar hope as the County of Wellington, that a deal will be reached during the upcoming conciliation dates.