

Gabriel Dumont Institute Bargaining Unit

April 2008

Bargaining

Although negotiations have seemed like a roller coaster ride for the last year, we do finally have a tentative agreement.

Your Negotiating Committee made up of Russell Fayant, Bente Huntley, and Bob Lindsay, along with Don MacDonald, our SGEU Agreement Administration Advisor, met numerous times over the past year with the management team of Geordy McCaffrey, Brett Vandale, and Michael Bell. Negotiations were delayed by a labour dispute but since that has been resolved, negotiations moved along very quickly. As a result, on Monday March 31, 2008, both sides agreed to and signed a tentative agreement. The package was approved by the Executive of the Education Sector via a conference call on Thursday, April 3 and by the GDI Board of Governors at their meeting on April 4, 2008. The agreement has been forwarded to the SGEU Administration Committee for approval at the Provincial Council meeting April 7 and 8, 2008.

Following the necessary approvals, the Negotiating Committee will visit several communities to hold membership meetings and vote on the agreement. The proposed amendments to the collective bargaining agreement are attached for your information. Please read them carefully. The Negotiating Committee believes that improvements were achieved in all areas.

An itinerary for the meetings was distributed to all members in an earlier email. If your city or town is not on the itinerary, please try to attend a meeting in the community nearest you. Mail-in ballots are enclosed for some members in outlying locations. As well, if you are unable to attend a meeting, a mail-in ballot will be sent to you. Ballots must be received in the Regina SGEU office no later than Thursday, April 17. The meetings will be held:

Meadow Lake	April 16	10:00 a.m.	DTI office, 220 B - 2nd St W
La Loche	April 16	4:00 p.m.	DTI office (middle room)
Prince Albert	April 17	10:00 a.m.	SUNTEP office, 3rd fl., GDI
Saskatoon	April 17	2:00-5:00 p.m.	SGEU Saskatoon, 1114 22nd St W
Regina	April 18	Noon	SUNTEP office, 3737 Wascana Pkwy

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Retroactive Pay

Retroactive pay will be paid by May 15. Since the agreement expired over a year ago, the retroactive pay will be for an increase for 3.5% of each employee's salary for one year (April 07-April 08).

Bargaining Guidelines

The new bargaining guidelines are also attached for your perusal. Numerous changes have been made. Please review the new bargaining guidelines and bring any concerns or questions to us. Your input is very important to us because we want to work to make your union stronger and fairer. There is a proposed new steward model that should facilitate the equitable representation of our diverse institute in terms of groupings (A, B, C) and geographical representation. Please Let us know what you think.

Grievances/Problems

A number of problems and grievances have been brought forward by our members. Please be assured we are dealing with these issues in a timely manner. Management has initiated a number of policies that will hopefully alleviate some of the stress and get things moving more smoothly.

ULD Training

Anyone interested in steward training may take advantage of ULD training offered by SGEU. ULD 10 will be offered in Regina on May 24, 2008. Costs of the training are covered by the union. See the SGEU website for times of ULD training at the various SGEU offices.

Meeting Updates

As chair, I attended a number of Education Sector meetings in Saskatoon on September 22, 2007, January 3, 2008 and March 15, 2008. As well, I attended three Provincial Council Meetings in Regina on October 12, 2007, December 12, 2007, and April 17, 2008. Please contact me for specific updates in regard to these meetings if you have any questions.

Annual General Meeting

Please watch for information regarding the upcoming Ed Sector AGM as well as the SGEU AGM.

We encourage all members to contact us with your questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted
GDI Bargaining Committee

Bente Huntley, Chair
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