

Regional Colleges Bargaining Report

April 2019

Your bargaining committee last met with the employer on February 13, 14 and 15. This was the first time the employer and committee have met to bargain since June of 2018.

Although we were not yet complete the non-monetary portion of bargaining, the bargaining committee decided to table our monetary package so that all outstanding proposals on both sides are now on the table for full discussion.

The bargaining committee and the human resources group have committed to regular meetings in the future. We hope that these meetings will result in better communication so that we can have the opportunity for earliest resolve on any future interpretation of issues and concerns.

The employer has finally removed the threat of the 3.5 per cent wage rollback but have yet to present us with any alternative monetary offer.

We were able to have some very good discussion on several of the key language issues before us such as EDOs, internal leaves of absences and scope of work for shorter term instructors.

Now that the monetary bargaining stage has begun, the Northlands College bargaining committee will also be joining us at the bargaining table for discussion on any monetary proposals, and any language proposals that require common language in both agreements.

Unfortunately, the value that the provincial government places on post-secondary education in Saskatchewan seems to be reflected by budget increases from the provincial government on budget day 2019, and no salary increase at the bargaining table.

We believe that post-secondary education is one of the key building blocks to a better society, community, and economy. Education should be seen as an investment in the future of our province – not an expense.

We also have some changes in our bargaining team. Damon Steadman is attending the bargaining table on behalf of Carlton Trail College after Doreen Stevens stepped down. Damon has already been an asset and a strong voice at the bargaining table, as he has been active in many roles within the college and collective bargaining environment. We want to thank Doreen for her time and energy at the table and we are pleased she is continuing in her steward role within the college, as she is a great resource to their members.

Angela Walters will be joining our team at the bargaining table on behalf of Great Plains College after Brigitte Monteith stepped down. The upcoming dates will be

1011 Devonshire Drive North
Regina, SK S4X 2X4
(p) 522.8571
1.800.667.5221
(f) 352.1969

1114-22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0S5
(p) 652.1811
1.800.667.9791
(f) 664.7134

33-11th Street West
Prince Albert, SK S6V 3A8
(p) 764.5201
1.800.667.9355
(f) 763.4763

www.sgeu.org

Angela's first time at the table, but she has already demonstrated a keen interest in learning the process. We want to thank Brigitte for her many years of dedication to her college colleagues, as well as her involvement within the sector and the broader SGEU.

Sheldon Kostyshyn will be joining the bargaining team on behalf of Parkland College as Lisa Cadieux de Larios's term will be up at the end of the academic year. Sheldon has been a solid supporter of the membership at the local level for many years and we are looking forward to his perspective at the bargaining table. We want to thank Lisa for her time and dedication to the membership as well. She has been here through thick and thin. In order to assist the transition, both of them will be joining us at the next bargaining session.

With these three new additions, your bargaining team is a diverse representation of various work areas within the colleges including counseling, coordination, information technology, instruction, marketing and strategy and reporting.

We continue to monitor the Task Force on Regional College Efficiency. One of the responses to this report was the coalition of Parkland and Cumberland Colleges. At the current time the colleges are operating as separate entities with a single board and will have a single CEO, a position that has been recently posted.

One issue on the table is EDOs and whether the employer has the ability to deny or remove them.

Even though the employer has removed the wage rollback, we are reminding them of the increased costs of living over the past several years. As with all sectors both within and outside our union, the current negotiating environment is very tough. However, we will continue to bargain and push for the best new Collective Agreement possible.

We remind all members that the current Collective Agreement, even though expired, remains in force and active until a new Collective Agreement can be achieved and ratified by the membership and all parties. Then, and only then, will the current Collective Agreement cease to be in effect.

Should anyone have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of your Bargaining Chairs or our SGEU Labour Relations Officer.

Spring looks like it is finally here! Get out and enjoy the sunshine!

In Solidarity,
Your Bargaining Committee Members,

Marney Robinson, North West College
Angela Walters, Great Plains College
Lynette Gerski, Cumberland College
Kathy Mahussier, LRO, SGEU

Sheldon Kostyshyn, Parkland College
Debbie Turgeon, Southeast College
Damon Steadman, Carlton Trail College