

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UPDATE
CUPE 1975 – November 15, 2007

CUPE has been on strike since November 2, 2007.

The Universities are committed to reaching an agreement with CUPE and putting an end to this dispute.

There are two outstanding issues that we need to have discussions about (described fully in the November 9, 2007 Bargaining Update).

The Universities have indicated to CUPE, through the conciliator, that we wish to meet with the conciliator and the chief negotiators to review the issues and discuss ways to move forward.

The union rejected this suggestion. We are now waiting for further advice from the conciliator.

The Universities remain concerned about CUPE's commitment to bargaining an agreement to end the current labour dispute.

Q. What is the status of our discussions with the conciliator regarding resuming collective bargaining discussions with CUPE 1975?

- Despite our interest in hearing from the union regarding potential solutions to resolve the two outstanding matters, the Universities have not yet heard any new ideas from the union.
- As a result, the Universities conducted an exploratory discussion with the conciliator, and through him, proposed that the union's negotiator and the Universities' negotiator meet with him to review the status of the issues and discuss ways to move forward. The conciliator informed us that the union rejected this suggestion.
- We asked the conciliator to attempt to find out from CUPE what ideas they may have for addressing the issues. We are awaiting the conciliator's advice as to what other options might exist.
- We are concerned about the union's public statements that they are ready to return to bargaining when they have made no request to do so, have proposed no new ideas, have not asked to resume the conciliation process and have refused to agree to a discussion between negotiators about the status of issues separating CUPE and the Universities.
- The union has publicly expressed its interest in resolving the strike and bargaining an agreement. Its actions do not appear to be consistent with that message.