

Local 5284 – Member email

From: 5284 executive
To: Entire membership
Subject: Critical bargaining update

Dear 5284 members,

We just wrapped our last round of bargaining in October. It was a difficult round – and now we know that we are heading into another contentious negotiation. We are writing to you today to give you a critical update on where things stand with the employer to map out where we go from here.

While we received only 1 per cent wage increases under Bill 124, we were able to negotiate a wage re-opener. That means that the employer committed to going back to the bargaining table should the law that suppressed our wages change.

Bill 124 was struck down months ago and we were finally able to get the employer back to the table. We expected them to do right and help offset some of the crushing inflation we live through these last few years.

That hope was not matched at the table.

While we expected to meet to discuss only Bill 124, the employer came with a 25 page document of concessions.

Not only did they refuse to fulfill their obligation and rectify the injustice of Bill 124, they are trying to wring further concessions from workers who already earn between \$2-\$5 an hour less than counterparts at other agencies.

In our last round of bargaining, the employer held back information. They dragged their feet. They tried to undermine our solidarity. They lied about a ministry audit that never came. And while our wages stagnated, they found creative ways to boost the salary of management.

We need to organize and fight back to get what we deserve. That starts today.

We have a path forward that will increase pressure on the employer. It's going to take all of us participating – showing up to solidarity days in union colours, signing our names on petitions, talking about the issues with neighbours and friends. It's going to be work, but together we can make our lives and our workplaces better.

The first thing we need is for as many members as possible to fill in our bargaining survey. We want to make sure that our proposals are addressing the very real challenges you face every day.

The bargaining survey is attached. Fill it out and send it back to cupe5284secretary@gmail.com by February 13.

We'll have more actions in the coming days and weeks. If you want to play a more active role in this fight, please get in touch.

A reminder that our next General Membership Meeting is on February 20. The Zoom link will be sent out on our Facebook page and on www.5284.cupe.ca.

In solidarity,

The CUPE 5284 Executive