

## How to support striking Winnipeg Airport workers



The members of PSAC/UCTE Local 50600 hit the picket line at the Winnipeg Airport on the morning of July 24. After seven days of intense mediation, the Winnipeg Airports Authority (WAA) walked away from the table at about 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 23. We remained available to the mediator until 3:00 a.m. and when no further communication was made by the employer, our members hit the picket line at 3:00 a.m. sharp.

The main priority issue is WAA's use of contractors that are doing the work of bargaining unit members. We have filed grievances that are in the system and we have identified several cases where our members can do it more cost effectively. This has been all for naught and WAA refused to ensure the job security of our members.

### So how can you support?

**Help send a message to CEO Barry Rempel to get back to the table**

You can phone his office at (204) 987-2024 and ask him to show respect for his employees by going back to the table with an offer that shows respect.

**Send messages, letters, photos or videos of support**

Please send them to Thomas Linner at [linnert@psac.com](mailto:linnert@psac.com) and we'll ensure the members see them. You can also post on the Facebook page Public Service Alliance of Canada - Prairie Region or tweet to @psacprairies

**Send donations for the Local strike fund**

If you would like to make a donation, please make them payable to UCTE 50600 (Strike Fund in the memo field) and mail or drop them off at PSAC Regional Office, 460 – 175 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3R8. We'll make sure it gets to the Local Treasurer!

**If you're in the Winnipeg area stop by the picket line – Bring your flags and your friends**

Picket lines are scheduled for 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven days a week. Location may vary, but at most times, there will be a line at either the departures

and arrivals levels. Check in at Strike HQ to verify the exact location.

However, as all the parking at the airport is under contract by WAA, we ask you to NOT PARK in the WAA parkades. To facilitate visits of support, please park at the Victoria Inn and stop at Strike HQ in the Imperial Boardroom (through the main doors, turn left and it will be on your left). We will either get you on the hotel shuttle that we've made arrangements for or we'll take you over ourselves and we'll make sure you get back to your vehicle.

### **Respect the Picket Line**

While we understand there are limited options for alternate arrangements and its summer holiday season, as the bumper sticker says:

**"Friends Don't Let Friends Cross Picket Lines"**

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## **Labour Board upholds PSAC complaint**

Members whose hours of work were changed in 2014 during bargaining with Treasury Board have won back pay and benefits after the union filed a complaint.

The Federal Public Service Labour Relations Act, like other labour laws in Canada, contains a provision that freezes the terms and conditions contained in

collective agreements on the day that notice to bargain a new agreement is given. The freeze continues until a new agreement is either negotiated or awarded by an arbitrator, or until a strike takes place.

"The Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board accepted the union's argument that by changing established hours of work during the bargaining process, the employer clearly violated the law," said Robyn Benson, PSAC National President. "Freezing terms and conditions at the start of bargaining is important because it provides a stable work environment while negotiations take place."

This decision is just the latest one confirming that while employers may have certain rights under a collective agreement to make changes, they cannot make those changes during the freeze period except in limited situations or with the union's consent.

On November 1, 2014, the Pacific Region of the Correctional Service Canada reduced the work week to four days for term workers. Hours of work for 45 employees in the Program and Administration (PA) were reduced from 37.5 to 30 and for six term employees in the Operational Services (SV) group reduced from 40 to 32. While the employer restored their hours as of April 1, 2015, they had lost not only pay but leave and pension entitlements as well.

The Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board rejected the employer's arguments and ordered all lost wages and benefits be paid to the affected employees for the period November 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

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## **\*Updated\* TB collective agreements now posted**

The new collective agreements for three of the Treasury Board units are now available:

**PA:** [psacunion.ca/collective-agreement/pa-group](https://psacunion.ca/collective-agreement/pa-group)

**SV:** [psacunion.ca/operational-services-sv-group](https://psacunion.ca/operational-services-sv-group)

**TC:** [psacunion.ca/technical-services-tc-group](https://psacunion.ca/technical-services-tc-group)

**EB:** [psacunion.ca/education-and-library-science-eb-group](https://psacunion.ca/education-and-library-science-eb-group)



## **Working for a fair contract for Border Services members**

While Parliament is in recess over the summer, members of CIU's National Board of Directors across the country are taking lobbying training and bringing our message to Members of Parliament.

We're talking to MPs about what it means to work for the Canada Border Services Agency and the importance of achieving a contract that provides parity with other law enforcement agencies.

Across Canada, we're calling on MPs to contact Treasury Board President Scott Brison in support of our demand for an early retirement regime, one that reflects what is already in place for other law enforcement personnel in the federal public service.

There are many MPs we need to meet. While some meetings have already taken place, it's not too late for CIU members to participate by volunteering to meet with their MP. Contact your Branch President who can provide you with helpful notes and information. Members can also get involved in Branch activities taking place over the summer to remind the employer that we want an agreement that meets our needs.

### **Progress is being made on an Essential Services Agreement**

Talks concerning an essential services' agreement (ESA) with Treasury Board are ongoing and progress has been made. Our hope is that an agreement will be reached in the very near future.

Because the essential services agreement determines which services can and cannot be withdrawn in the event of a job action, resolving the ESA with Treasury Board is critical step in the bargaining process that must be completed before a strike vote can be called and job action undertaken.

We'll provide an update as talks continue.

### **We're preparing for the Public Interest Commission**

Work is underway to prepare the extensive presentation and submission that our union will make before the Public Interest Commission (PIC). The first hearing dates are October 17 and 18.



## Get your union news – online and screen-friendly

Published three times per year, 180,000 of our members received the winter edition of PSAC's newsletter Our Union Voice.

This format also allows for local printing and a PDF download, in order to share with colleagues, friends and family.

<https://psacafpc.ca/2oyqzjW>