

September 8, 2015

What's New?

Negotiations continue: we met with the employer party from July to late August and twice in September, with very few results. The employer party is still not able to settle our demands, not to mention their own!

We want meaningful discussions and some progress to be made, but the employer's representatives at the negotiating table have still clearly not been given the flexibility to agree to anything.

For the employer, these negotiations are all about presenting THEIR demands along with bits and pieces of explanations. We find ourselves inundated with the employer's demands, a strategy that stymies any possible progress with over 80 employer demands on the table at this moment, more than double the number of our own union demands.

Mediation

As we told you in June, we requested the intervention of a mediator to help these negotiations move forward. A mediation meeting was held on June 30. We trusted that the mediator would help the parties reach some agreements.

But the employer representatives at the table did not have the mandates required to reach agreements on either union or employer demands. This deplorable employer strategy undermined the mediation process. The mediator cannot force the parties to reach an agreement, and his mandate ended with a meeting on August 25.

And Now What Do We Do?

Members need to demonstrate their discontent with these negotiations in order to get things moving.

We are dealing with numerous employer demands for cutbacks related to salary insurance, job security, the exercise of union rights, etc. The employer's strategy is to drown us with their demands and thus avoid talking about our own demands.

In the coming days, your union representatives will be asking you to participate in various actions aimed at putting pressure on your administration. We encourage you to participate in great numbers.

Seeking a Strike Mandate

Between now and September 25, you will be asked to vote on a strike mandate at a general assembly. We encourage you to exercise your right to vote.

Do not underestimate the effect that a strike mandate could have on the progress of these negotiations. The strike mandate itself is a pressure tactic. You can discuss this at your general assembly. Until then, we are counting on your support to help your negotiating team reach its first agreements.



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