



No bull bulletin

SEFPO

News for OPSEU members at the Niagara Parks Commission

Employer tries pressure tactic

Niagara Parks to ask for "no-board": Legal lockout or strike date is set for 12:01 a.m., May 1

We met the employer in conciliation April 5 - 7.

We signed off on all the non-monetary issues such as over-time distribution, recall rights and health and safety.

We're proud to report that we beat back all the employer's takeaways on the non-monetary items.

We believed that both sides were making progress. We were getting ready to move on to monetary issues. We exchanged our wage proposals in advance of bargaining at the end of the month.

Before the close of the meeting, the employer informed us that they will be asking the conciliation officer for a "no-board report".

On the 17th day after the "no-board" is issued, if there is no settlement, the employer can legally lock us out or we can legally go on strike.

The conciliation officer told us that our legal lockout or strike date will be 12:01 a.m. on May 1.

We believe Niagara Parks is asking for a "no-board" as a tactic to increase the pressure on us.

The employer is getting ready to bargain hard with us on money issues.

We're disappointed because our side has shown a willingness to negotiate fairly.

We wish we could say the same for management.

More bargaining dates at the end of the month

We'll resume negotiations April 20 - 21.

Under labour law, once the "no-board" is issued, the conciliation officer becomes a mediator.

We will bargain April 28 - 30 with the assistance of the mediator.

Sign up for Strike Sub-Committees

We'll continue to do our best to negotiate a fair contract. We want a settlement, not a strike.

But now is the time to prepare for the worst.

As we reported to you in our last bulletin, we have a Strike Committee.

Bill Burns, Janet Hepworth, Ian Mather and Barb Wilson will meet regularly in the next few weeks getting things ready.

But they can't do it alone. We are bargaining a contract that will benefit everyone. We need all of you to get involved. We need you to contact Bill and sign up for the strike sub-committees.

The more that Niagara Parks sees that you are behind the bargaining team that **you** elected and that you care about the demands that **you** voted on, the more pressure they will feel to negotiate a fair settlement with us.

You'll hear more from us as strike preparations get underway.

Thanks for your continued support.

In solidarity,

Your local 217 bargaining team

Shelley Reed, *Chair*
 Rob Atkin, *Co-chair*
 Desiree Constantinides
 Colleen McComb-Page
 Dino McDonnell
 Colin MacKenzie

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