

Un Employed

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News & Views of OPSEU Local 558 Striking Workers

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Solidarity key for negotiations

As talks continue between faculty negotiators and the college bargaining team, political pressure has never been more important.

Striking college faculty must keep the pressure on government to achieve a contract that improves education quality. While the negotiations are under a news blackout, we know that our bargaining strength flows from faculty's unwavering resolve to have the quality issue addressed.

"We need striking faculty to make their voices heard in the media and in their MPPs' offices," said RM Kennedy, local 558 strike communications director.

During these crucial days of negotiations, the government needs to hear the message that our

teachers, students and community members will settle for nothing less than quality community college education.

Actions planned

To ramp up pressure over the next week, the local has planned a number of actions.

- On Thursday morning, provincial NDP leader Howard Hampton will be picketing with the morning shift at Progress campus.
- On Thursday afternoon, each college across the province is organizing a solidarity rally in support of striking faculty. At Centennial, we will hold a rally at 4pm at Progress campus with speakers, music and guests from other unions and community groups. Regular picketing will continue as usual on Thursday.
- On Friday, instead of picketing, all shifts will be devoted to political action. Look for ideas about political action on the local 558 website and in tomorrow's UnEmployed.

Tie a yellow ribbon

At the rally on Thursday, striking faculty and their supporters will be wearing a yellow ribbon in solidarity with injured professor John Stammers, who continues to recover at Sunnybrook hospital. The yellow ribbon symbolizes the absence of a respected colleague who is missed on the lines.

Local 558 has been in contact with John's family and has passed on everyone's good wishes. We will share updates when they become available. ☹



Pickers at Morningside Campus brave the cold weather