

**OPSEU**



**SEFPO**

**CAAT Support**

**Vote August 4, 2005**



July 27, 2005

Dear CAAT Support Member:

On August 4, 2005 you will be asked to cast two ballots: one to reject management's offer, and another to give your bargaining team a strike mandate.

On June 23rd your bargaining team was unable to move forward at the table and still meet the timelines you set. They realized their only option was to take management's latest offer to a membership vote.

If you have been following the news this summer, you will realize that a strong strike mandate has led to significant movement at the bargaining table for OPSEU members and others in the labour movement. A high strike mandate equals more bargaining power equals a better contract.

These days, management usually waits to see the strength of a strike vote before making their true final offer. In this climate, many deals have been brokered on the eve of a strike date; there have been few actual strikes.

When you go to vote, remember the colleges received \$100 million in new funding from the province this year. The total package they have on offer for support staff is only \$6 million. Who is getting the rest?

Accept two per cent, and you know your managers will thank you for leaving more money on the table for them. Last year they gave themselves an average wage increase of seven per cent – what will it be this year?

Remember, a strike vote authorizes your bargaining team to call a strike only *if necessary*. It is a vote of confidence in your team. It says you trust them. It says: "I don't want to strike, but I will if I have to."

Our power lies in our ability to withdraw our services. Refuse that power, and you surrender your team's ability to get a better deal.

On August 4th, vote NO to the contract offer and YES to give your team the strike mandate they need to get the job done.

Yours truly,

Leah Casselman  
*President*

**OPSEU**

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