

# Contract Update

A Newsletter from the Colleges' Bargaining Team

Issue 11 – December 16, 2009

## **Negotiations Fail – No Progress**

On December 14 and 15 the colleges' bargaining team met with the union in an effort to finalize a collective agreement. We are disappointed to advise that the discussions were not successful.

The union's settlement position continues to be unaffordable. In addition to the \$218 million in extra annual costs, its proposals significantly impact on the delivery of academic programs and college governance.

In order to finalize a collective agreement, the colleges had hoped the union would bring its positions in line with the current economic environment and the four recommendations of the Joint Workload Taskforce Report. This did not happen.

## **Strike Vote on January 13, 2010**

A strike vote will be held on January 13, 2010. The union bargaining team has stated that this vote will strengthen its position at the bargaining table. We believe that a strike mandate will be used by the union to take its members out on strike.

A strike mandate will not change the fundamental reality, which is that a deal has to be affordable and practical. A strike mandate will not give the colleges more money or flexibility to reach a settlement.

## **Strike Will Be Decided by Faculty**

Whether or not there is a strike is now in the hands of faculty members. When faculty members vote on January 13, the ballot choice is clear:

**"I am in favour of a strike." or "I am not in favour of a strike."**

If faculty do not support a strike it is anticipated that a collective agreement will be finalized quickly based on the revised terms of employment. We can settle on a reasonable contract without disrupting the students' academic year through a long and costly strike.

## **Keeping you informed**

Contract Update is a periodic newsletter from the colleges' bargaining team to keep you informed on progress made or when significant events occur during collective bargaining. The English and French versions of this newsletter are also posted on the College Compensation and Appointments Council's website at [www.theCouncil.on.ca](http://www.theCouncil.on.ca).

## **Your opinion**

We are interested in what you have to say and welcome your opinion. Please feel free to contact any member of the colleges' bargaining team or submit your views in writing to: [info@theCouncil.on.ca](mailto:info@theCouncil.on.ca).