

BARGAINING BULLETIN #2



CUPE 2098 members in solidarity with Toronto Public Library Workers

Bargaining has begun

Your bargaining team will exchange first proposals with the employer on April 17th.

We already know from the struggle other City of Toronto locals faced that the City will try to extract whatever they can from our wages and benefits, carrying out a mandate for "cost containment" given by the Mayor's office – though it conflicts with his promise to not cut services.

The AOCC already suffered cuts in the 2012 budget. Many members had their hours cut – the equivalent of 8.5 lost jobs.

That's a significant loss to a local of just over 200 people, many of whom already have trouble putting together enough hours for a living wage.

It's also a loss to public services. While some cuts were reversed thanks to public outcry, the push to protect services isn't over – it's just moved to bargaining.

Community centres maintain Toronto's past, present, and future

Our members provide programs that people rely on, and connect them with others. These programs can make the difference between being able to work or not, to live in the city or not.

The spaces and programs we offer and maintain provide opportunities for elders, good jobs for youth, welcoming spaces for newcomers, and the chance to share or develop skills.

Staff with decades of seniority are now slated to lose their jobs. But does it make sense for community centres to lose years' worth of community knowledge?

Our members are many people's first and last points of connection with public services.

- We keep Toronto in reach of those who may otherwise become isolated: new Canadians, the elderly, low-income parents, youth, and marginalized people.
- We give people support today that prevents them from needing costlier services tomorrow.

- We partner with other services to make sure supports are provided where they're needed most.

For many people, becoming a Torontonians starts by talking with one of our members -- whether it's to join a program, get help with public services, hold a meeting, or just inquire about the neighbourhood.

The number of patrons at many of our centres has increased tenfold in recent years.

But we haven't seen staffing increase to match it. Instead, we're seeing senseless layoffs. The press has gone after other CUPE locals for commonplace redeployment language that prevents job loss from services being sold off. But *our* members don't even have such basic employment security.

This isn't the time to make cuts even easier; it's time to make sure our communities have resource that grow with them. And that means making sure city employees have basic protections they deserve.

Stay connected, get active!

There are many ways to keep connected with the bargaining process.

- Find out who your steward is and get in touch with them; make sure they have your email and phone number, so you can get these bulletins and related action alerts.
- If you know another AOCC worker who should be getting these bulletins, but isn't, put them in touch with us.
- Check out the website: <http://local2998.cupe.ca/>

And watch for the next bargaining bulletin.

In Solidarity,
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