



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

November 3, 2009

To our CUPE 3906 Colleagues:

On behalf of the 65,000 academic staff we represent, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) wants to express our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in CUPE 3906 unit 1. Your employer's refusal to bargain fair wages and benefits is sadly becoming a trend across the country and many academic staff have had to strike to protect their member's working conditions. The good news is that in almost every case, colleagues have prevailed, emerging with stronger collective agreements and real gains to wages and benefits.

Precarious work is becoming the norm in our universities and colleges and research and teaching assistants are among the most vulnerable employees. Rising tuition fees and eroding working conditions have become a fact of life. This makes the McMaster Administration's demands for cutbacks in key terms and conditions unacceptable. The refusal, before today, of the employer to continue talks at the table is also unacceptable.

No one takes lightly the decision to go on strike but at times like this it is necessary to achieve a fair settlement. Your CAUT colleagues across the country support you in your struggle.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Penni Stewart'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penni Stewart
President

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