

# Strike update

## CUPE Local 53



To the members of CUPE Local 53:

Yesterday we returned to the bargaining table at the request of the Employer. And today we returned yet again. We thought this was a good sign that they were ready to listen and were possibly prepared to scrap the concessions. Instead, yesterday, the employer let us know that their position hadn't changed when it comes to scheduling and that, unless we are willing to accept it, there wouldn't be a deal. And today the employer's offer was nearly identical and they essentially told us little more than: "We are not going to accept your offer".

We are, of course, surprised and disappointed. We're disappointed that we were brought back to the table only to learn that the employer was doubling down. And we're disappointed that decades of collaboration is being thrown out the window.

Let's remember that throughout the life of being a unionized workplace, the Union has never blocked the employer changing shifts. We have only insisted on being part of the process to ensure that there is collaboration before new schedules are enforced, and that we are a part of the process to ensure that members' rights are protected when new schedules are established. We have a strong record of successfully collaborating with the employer - and, even up until today, we've moved on key issues to try to make this work. Yet each time, the employer chose to double down.

Let's be clear that **this is a strike that the employer has manufactured without a need or history of problems that couldn't be successfully addressed.**

So we're of course disappointed that the employer's talk of flexibility is little more than a need for complete control. But, despite all this, we know our proposals are reasonable and right. Members of CUPE Local 53: we've come this far. Let's keep going and, if anything, let's ramp things up.

We'll see you on the picket line from 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday, at Town hall, 575 Rossland Rd East; and 333 McKinney Drive

**And we will follow up soon about new tactics to put pressure on an employer who could have prevented this drawn out strike.**

Please continue to send a message to the Town of Whitby here:  
<https://cupe.ca/SupportWhitbyMunicipalWorkers>

**Feel free to reach out to your bargaining team via email:**  
[cupe53comm@gmail.com](mailto:cupe53comm@gmail.com)