

# Strike update

## CUPE Local 53



To the members of CUPE Local 53:

We have now been on the picket lines for nearly two weeks, since October 14. We have some important updates about the messaging coming from the Employer and Mayor of the Town of Whitby. Specifically, we want to address three myths they have been pushing on the public when, instead, they could have returned to the bargaining table and discussed the issues directly with your bargaining team.

### Myth 1: “no concession bargaining is not realistic”

Mayor Elizabeth Roy recently said that “no concession bargaining is not realistic”. In a letter from your President, Rob Radford, he let the Mayor know that **bargaining without resorting to concessions is absolutely realistic because that’s what we’ve managed to do over decades of negotiations with the Town of Whitby.**

### Myth 2: This is all about wages and benefits

We have been clear from day one that work-life balance is the key issue. First the employer tried framing their proposed changes as a need for increased scheduling flexibility to achieve community needs. And now that it’s becoming clearer to the general public that their proposals are unnecessary and harmful, they’re trying to convince people that we’re solely focused on wages.

**Our primary concern is the chaos members will experience if we accepted their proposal.**

### Myth 3: Our hands are tied

As of late the Mayor has tried passing the buck by saying that Council is not “part of the bargaining team”. They’ve tried convincing people they have no say and no control over what happen. But the reality is that they do. **We’ve made it clear that Council needs to step in and force the Employer back to the table so they can scrap the concessions immediately.**

See you on the picket line from noon-4pm, Monday to Friday, at Town hall, 575 Rossland Rd East. **We’ll be sending a formal invitation to Council to join us as well.**

And also 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)**