

CUPE 503

Membership Update



Dear CUPE 503 Members,

March 11th 2021 was the one year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. We recognize the extraordinary impact this has had on our membership of both living and working delivery services and programs during the pandemic. With the vaccine roll-out the light at the end of the tunnel is shining brighter and we encourage all members to take all necessary precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

CUPE 503 Office Operations

We will continue to service the membership through remote appointments and meetings as our office operations start to ramp up.

Members can make inquiries with our staff by contacting the Local's office main number at 613-230-2456 or by sending an email inquiry to local503@cupe503.com.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**SIGN UP FOR
MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

City of Ottawa Inside-Outside Collective Agreement Negotiations

On February 9,10, 11 2021 the CUPE 503 Bargaining Team and the employer met with the goal of reaching a negotiated settlement. On February 11th the CUPE 503 Bargaining Team informed the employer that the parties remain too far apart on key issues to the membership and the Union would take the next step of filing for Conciliation. The Ministry of Labour has appointed a Conciliator and April 14th, 2021 has been confirmed for our Conciliation Date with the employer.

Ottawa Public Library Negotiations

The OPL Bargaining Team has met to review the survey results, and will be hosting a virtual Ratification of Demands meeting on March 24th 2021 through Zoom and bargaining dates have been confirmed commencing March 26th through to the later part of April 2021.

City of Clarence Rockland Negotiations

The City of Clarence Rockland Bargaining Team met virtually with the employer for 7 days of bargaining the end of January and in February. After having some progress at the table, the Bargaining Team and the employer have confirmed March 23 and 25th 2021 for two additional days.

City of Ottawa Part-Time Recreation & Culture Negotiations

Our Bargaining Team has been established and will be finalizing the membership survey to develop proposals. Given the number of transitions with this particular unit and COVID-19 it is more important than ever for the Local to have your PERSONAL email address and we ask that members contact Heather at hduff@cupe503.com to be added to our e-mail list.

Embassy West Retirement Living Negotiations

On March 10th, 2021 our Bargaining Team completed a virtual ratification of demands meeting and on March 15th the exchange of proposals with the employer took place. Dates are scheduled through March and April 2021.

Forest Hill Negotiations

The membership survey for our Bargaining Team to hear from our Forest Hill members will commence March 24th through April 5th, 2021. A ratification of demands meeting has been set for April 22nd, 2021 and a notice is being prepared for the membership. Dates for bargaining are almost confirmed with the employer.

Sandfield Place Negotiations

The membership survey for our Sandfield Place members will go live April 12th through April 26th, 2021. We have been able to confirm dates with the employer for mid-May for our Bargaining Team and the employer to come together to negotiate a collective agreement. The ratification of demands meeting has been set for May 7th, 2021 and a notice is being prepared to be sent out to the members. Given how negotiations have taken place with this employer in the past the Local has already filed for conciliation with the Ministry of Labour to move the process along.

Champlain LHINS Negotiations

After hosting two virtual town hall meetings and conducting votes on whether or not CUPE 503 members wish to proceed with returning to a central table with Ontario Health. We have communicated the results of the vote to CUPE National who will be taking next steps and we will provide an update to the membership of where things land with the other CUPE LHINS units from across the province.

Vaccine Roll-out

CUPE 503 members continue to be on the front lines, not only receiving vaccines according to the Provincial Government prioritization plan but also in the delivery of vaccines in our communities. CUPE 503 has been advocating for our members with the various employers to receive vaccines to reduce the spread of the virus. With additional supply expected in the coming months we are encouraging all members to speak with their primary health care providers to determine if they can receive the vaccines and we will continue to advocate for the prioritization of our members who are delivering vital services in our communities.

OMERS Update as of February 25th, 2021 from CUPE Ontario

Dear OMERS plan members:

We wanted to give you an important update about OMERS. As you may have heard, the pension fund lost more than \$3 billion or -2.7% last year, a shortfall of more than \$10 billion compared to their own benchmark returns for 2020. This is the result of some very questionable decisions made by investment managers that business media giant Bloomberg described as “bad bets” with your pension savings, while the five top OMERS executives collectively made \$8 million in bonuses last year.

And this isn't new – it's part of a longer pattern of underperformance at OMERS. Well, now it's time to demand accountability and to ramp up our calls for increased scrutiny of OMERS. We are currently in the process of demanding an immediate and comprehensive review of OMERS' failed investment management in recent years, with full disclosure to plan members and the involvement of unions and employers.

We simply can't allow OMERS executives to get away with washing their hands of these investment results or blaming COVID for their poor 2020 returns. On the exact same day OMERS reported losses, Quebec's large pension fund manager, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), reported positive 2020 returns of +7.7%.

This latest bad news from OMERS is the result of their decisions and CUPE Ontario will continue to oppose any attempt to make plan members pay for them. To CUPE Ontario's 120,000 active OMERS plan members, we will take action. There will be accountability.

Please keep an eye out for updated information, including ways you can take direct action as a plan member of OMERS.

Fred Hahn President, CUPE Ontario

Membership Updates

To receive regular updates from CUPE 503 we encourage all members to provide their PERSONAL email address to the Local. Please contact Heather at hduff@cupe503.com to add your PERSONAL email to our database. More generic updates will continue to be available on our website at www.cupe503.com.

CUPE 503 Membership Meeting

**Tuesday
March 16, 7pm**

CUPE 503 TRAINING HALL, 1505 CARLING AVE

**PLEASE WEAR A
MASK AND OBSERVE
PHYSICAL
DISTANCING AS YOU
ENTER.**



Also, we will be limiting attendance to no more than 50 people in keeping with Public Health guidelines

