

News and notes of interest to McMaster's neighbours

Issue # 46 – September 30, 2010

Collective Bargaining Update

McMaster and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU Local 2) have been bargaining since September 20 to reach a new collective agreement. While about half of the contract has been settled, the remaining monetary issues are very challenging.

SEIU Local 2 represents skilled trades, maintenance and operations, custodial and cleaning staff at McMaster. The union's current contract expires on September 30. While we remain focused on negotiating a contract, a No Board Report has been issued setting this Friday, October 1 as the earliest date for a legal strike. The University expects the union to provide advance notice of a strike.

In the event of a strike, the University will remain open and classes will continue.

Negotiations are continuing Thursday with the assistance of the provincial mediator. While we hope a deal will be reached, it is possible that the Union will decide to begin a strike and establish picket lines. Picketing activity will cause delays getting onto campus.

The Union is permitted to picket, but with certain restrictions. Picketers are legally permitted to:

- Carry signs stating the nature of the dispute
- Speak to people entering the property about their concerns
- Ask persons entering the property to join the picket line

Picketers are not legally entitled to:

- Blockade entrances to the University
- Use force, threats or threatening gestures
- Construct physical barriers to block access to the University
- Trespass on the University property to picket

In the event of a strike, the Union determines how many picketers will be present and what times of day they will picket. If you have any questions about picketing and traffic, contact Hamilton Police Services at: 905-546-4925.

Buses

HSR buses will not enter campus if there is a strike at McMaster. The HSR will decide on the location of temporary bus stop locations should a strike occur. Once these stops have been determined, we will share this information with you.

For certain events, participants may come to campus in school buses or motor coaches. Should there be pickets, some of these buses may pick up and drop off their passengers along Forsyth Avenue North.

For up-to-date information on the status of collective bargaining visit:

The McMaster Daily News – <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca>

McMaster on Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/mcmasteruniversity>

Collective bargaining updates on Twitter – <http://www.twitter.com/mcmasterupdates>

Keeping connected

As activities on campus continue, we'd like to stay connected with residents living on Mayfair Circle, Mayfair Place, Forsyth Avenue North, Forsyth Avenue and Sterling. If you are interested in receiving regular updates via e-mail, please e-mail the following information to **Gord Arbeau, Associate Director Public Relations – arbeaug@mcmaster.ca**

Your Name:

Your Street Address:

Your e-mail Address:

Gord Arbeau Associate Director, Public Relations - 905-525-9140 (27305)

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