

March 6, 2018

Dear CUPE 3903 members,

On behalf of the CUPE 3906 executive – which represents approximately 3,000 Teaching Assistants, Sessional Faculty, Hourly-Rated Sessional Music Faculty, and Post-Doctoral Fellows at McMaster University – we wish to express our support and solidarity for your brave decision to engage in strike action at York University. We know that in taking this stand to defend and advance your members' working conditions, you are also taking a stand in defense of the working conditions in the sector more generally.

We are extremely discouraged to see the Employer repeatedly approaching the bargaining process in a way forces you to go on strike. We were also disappointed to see the Employer's unwillingness to bargain with you this past weekend.

As an academic Local ourselves, we know that the dedicated work of Teaching Assistants, Course Directors, Graduate Assistants, and other precarious academic workers is at the heart of what the university does. You do the bulk of the teaching and your compensation fails to reflect the vital role that plays in educating students at York University. The erosion of Unit 3 work over the past few years is particularly troubling, as meaningful employment for graduate student-workers is needed to support the ever-rising cost of living and tuition. Graduate workers need and deserve access to good jobs, and we strongly support your efforts to secure these.

We stand with you in solidarity. At our upcoming executive meeting, we will be bringing forward a motion for a donation to your strike fund. Please feel free to let us know how we can help in showing solidarity via social media or on campus. We urge you to stand strong as you continue fighting for these key rights.

In Solidarity,

Angie Perez  
President, CUPE Local 3906