**November GMM Report – Arghyadeep Sarkar, Health and Safety Officer**

I began my duty as Health and Safety Officer from June 2020 onwards. One of my primary duties is to attend monthly meetings of the Central Joint Health and Safety Committee (CJHSC) of the university over various issues in regard to health and safety. Through these meetings we as a union can advocate our health and safety concerns on behalf of our union workers with me being the representative of the union. One of issues we face is that there is lack of effective representation on each of the Joint Health and Safety Committees across various buildings and departments in the campus. According to our records(dated July’ 20), the following Joint Health and Safety Committees are without CUPE 3906 representatives: DeGroote (Units 3), Engineering (Unit 2 and Unit 3), Ivor Wynne/David Braley (Units 2 and 3), Libraries and Museum of Art (Units 1, 2, and 3), McIARS (Units 1, 2, and 3), Science (Unit 2). If you work in one of these zones and are interested in serving on your Joint Health and Safety Committee, or if you would like more information about your Joint Health and Safety Committees, please send an email to healthandsafety@cupe3906.org.

This year has been pretty gloomy for most of us due to COVID-19 outbreak. Even though we had the virus little bit under control in the previous few months here in Canada, but we are in midst of 2nd wave of this pandemic. Hamilton is now marked in Covid red zone as of 16th November. Corona virus has claimed over 1,300,000 lives worldwide. Our prayers with their family who have suffered during this pandemic. I would also like to remind our members that the university is still in shutdown. The University is conducting Fall 2020 semester online as well Winter term 2021 semester. The University has laid out a clear plan in terms of research labs operation with proper social distancing protocol being maintained. For more detail knowledge, please visit ( <https://hr.mcmaster.ca/resources/covid19/workplace-health-and-safety-guidance-during-covid-19/> ) for more info. The members who require experimental research are being only being allowed and that too self-voluntarily. However, if certain members are still being enforced to work under these extremely difficult circumstances without proper personal protective equipment, please do contact us. We, as a union rep are ready to help to the best of our capacity. If any members would like to come forward and request any health and safety concern, the union would be happy to assist in that process. The lack of standardized training for Unit 1 members continues to be an area of concern, as it directly affects those of us working in potentially hazardous lab situations and indirectly contributes to overwork, stress, and other work-related health risks. Any members experiencing problems of this nature are encouraged to send an email to healthandsafety@cupe3906.org and share their stories.

Finally, I would like to state that there is a health & safety and injured workers virtual conference 2020 happening on Nov’ 18 &19 organized by CUPE Ontario. In our last exec meeting we passed a motion to allow for 4 of our members to attend this conference. Anybody interested can email me.