***Nishant Kashyap***

**Chief Steward TAs/Unit-1 (Monthly Report November 2020)**

Welcome from the Union as we all know the fall has been pleasant so far many of us. Since the beginning of this term I was involved mainly in first constructing the steward’s council which wasn’t in place before. Our first steward’s council meeting of the year took place during the reading week. There was an impressive turn out and stewards discussed a range of issues most importantly the out of province issue which some of our unit-1 members are facing. We are currently trying to run a social movement within different departments with the help of the leadership off our stewards. The good news that many of the stewards participated this month in the stewardship course offered by CUPE national as well the course on organizing things at your work place. We are planning in future to organize more such courses to hone our skill set and knowledge in different domains. Out of different departments from all faculties we now have stewards from almost all the departments. Currently we have a strong network of around 50 stewards in different departments. There have been several significant actions which the CUPE-3906 has pressed hard for the larger benefit of our Unit-1 members i.e Tas/Ras in lieu. We are working hard on the scope issue through our networks. TA orientations to several departments is one such imperative event which was organized fully virtually this time focussing on the rights, benefits and etc. of our Unit-1 members.

One of the imperative contributions was to construct an effective steward council representing thirty-three departments from six different faculties. Our current stewards are playing a great leadership role within their departments by protecting the rights and interest of TAs. They are working hard to ensure a proper communication with the membership and a better operational synergy with CUPE-3906 and their departments. Stewards election process is still open.

The TA work hour tracker an online tool with the help of CUPE National and local executives and staff because of which our TAs can track their hours and can claim for extra pay if exceeding their designated work hours.

I want to make sure this year to try my best so that all issues which our unit-1 members are facing due to current situation are resolved no later than sooner. Due to COVID-19 we have a difficult time but I am sure it will lead us to a beautiful future. I personally believe that together as a team and with the support of our TAs and stewards we have a chance to do something extraordinary in this academic year. Stay safe and have wonderful academic year ahead!

In solidarity,

***Nishant Kashyap***

Chief Steward Unit-1 (Mail- chiefsteward\_tas@cupe3906.org)