

Vice President's Report to the General Membership (CUPE Local 3906)

December 16, 2020

Dear Members,

Once again, I am currently rushing to get this report written after having spent the past several days making other preparations for today's GMM. Please forgive any mistakes, and feel free to contact me if you are left with questions.

Much of late November was spent coordinating the Unit 2 SGMM and ratification vote, which ended in a strong "yes" mandate from the members. The new (tentative) Unit 2 Collective Agreement is now ready for ratification by the McMaster University Board of Governors tomorrow, December 17, after which we will finally be able to say the new agreement is official. Having said that, I would like to again thank the Unit 2 bargaining team, the bargaining support/strike committees, and our fantastic staff for all of their hard work. Since the agreement is for a term of one year, we are already in preparatory talks for the next round of Unit 2 bargaining. I look forward to again supporting the bargaining team – particularly with communications – when the time comes.

My communication responsibilities have been more than usual in light of the Unit 2 ratification vote, certain benefits deadlines and end-of-term reminders, and a host of other important matters the Local is facing. I also take care of many of the technical preparations required for these virtual GMMs, including all registration-related member communications. Having said that, I would again implore any interested execs and rank-and-file members to join the Communications Committee. As of now, the committee is still very small, consisting of only myself, the Undergraduate Officer, and the Benefits Officer. If you have a talent for social media, infographics, or this kind of work simply interests you, please get in touch by emailing vicepresident@cupe3906.org.

I continue to support the Grievance Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Benefits Committee by attending their meetings and participating in other virtual discussions wherever possible. With respect to benefits in particular, recent unforeseen circumstances have required a few of us on the executive and staff to take on an increased number of member inquiries and applications for review. I am looking forward to making the benefits portfolio a priority in the new year.

I've also continued to provide administrative and executive support to the Local's Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, particularly through the distribution of Community Impact Grants at the group's semimonthly meetings, and by liaising with the Finance Committee.

And finally, I continue to act as Chair of the Local's Bylaws Committee and fulfill the associated responsibilities. I've spent much of the last month cleaning up the draft document (containing all of the Committee's proposed changes) that is being voted on at today's GMM. I have provided pre-written motions for each proposed change, all of which will be voted on individually today. Assuming these changes are accepted by at least 2/3 of the members in attendance, the package will then be sent on to CUPE National for final review and (hopefully) ratification. The Bylaws Committee will then meet again in the new year, once we have had the chance to rest a bit after a very busy term. As a note, I am anticipating there being at least one vacancy on the Committee in the new year, and we'll be holding an election in a forthcoming GMM. So, if bylaws excite you, or if you are simply wanting to learn more about and contribute to union

business, please don't hesitate to reach out for more information by emailing me at vicepresident@cupe3906.org.

Thanks for a wonderful Fall term, everyone! I look forward to seeing you all in support of our out-of-province Unit 1 members at the Board of Governors meeting tomorrow morning.

Have a safe and happy holiday break!

In solidarity,

Mollie McGuire