

President's Report - February 2021  
Sharoni Mitra

Dear Members,

This February has been a busy month at the local and I'm hoping you all had as restful of a reading week as possible.

We had our first LMC (Labour Management Committee) meeting of the year with the Employer in late January, which allowed us to directly and proactively address a number of questions and concerns to the Employer. In another setting with the Employer, I was able to advocate on the importance of our democratic engagement at the December Board of Governor's meeting. The Employer tried to criticize that we brought up the out of province TA exclusion issue at the meeting, but we held strong in our understanding that our participation was perfectly justified.

I also spoke at the City of Hamilton's delegation on a student-living wage, an initiative that has been driven one of our rank and file members, the, HDLC, and several Labour Studies students as well. I am glad to have had the opportunity to on our behalf to city governance.

With several stewards and executive members, I completed a wonderful 2-part Anti-Oppression workshop led by Janelle Brady. This initiative was organized by our Equity Officer Laurie and taught us helpful tools in working toward liberation and a more just world, and has prompted thought on further initiatives we can take at 3906. If you have any ideas on this front, please reach out to me!

Additionally, we've been working to find better software and technology to help our Local run more smoothly with tasks such as digital elections, as well as benefits and member service support in the long term. We had an initial meeting with the Employer about paid TA-training (which was one in the last Unit 1 contract), and I'm happy to report we also found a way to increase the Unit 2 Health Care Spending Account entitlement. Moreover, I welcomed our two new executive members Sarah (International Officer) and Kyle (Benefits and Advocacy) and have supported the revamping of both those portfolios.

On a different note, the OUWCC multi-day conference took place in February. This conference is for CUPE locals in the university sector (academic and support workers) and offered a wealth of learning on the long-term fight to reclaim the university sector as a public good and to fight austerity. In terms of specific workshops, I was able to participate in ones on supporting Indigenous Workers, Racism and Mental Health, and, Mental Health more generally.

Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge the exceptional contributions that Mollie McGuire (our departing Vice President) has made to 3906. Mollie always advocated for the interests of our membership. helped support new and important initiatives such as the ISWG, and transformed our local for the better. I have learned a lot alongside her this year and I wish Mollie the best of luck in her future endeavours. You'll be missed comrade!

In Solidarity,

Sharoni Mitra (she/they)  
President of CUPE 3906