

July 2021 President's Report
Sharoni Mitra

Dear members,

Since our last GMM in early June we have been ramped up our engagement in Unit 2 bargaining efforts to ratify bargaining priorities, develop contract proposals as well plan for member engagement and wider support for our upcoming round of negotiations. I am pleased to say we hired a mobilizer in this regard who is a member of the local and a sessional professor. I also participated in a bargaining simulation alongside several members of our local which was both an educational and enjoyable exercise. Our bargaining team, Brad, Mary Ellen, and Fran have all been working diligently and collaboratively. Our first day at the bargaining table will be on August 9th. I have also connected with other academic locals who've bargained during the pandemic to learn from their lessons and experiences as well. In relation, I continue to liaise with the HDLC, with the OUWCC (including participating in their multi-day strategy session in June) and work on issues of great concern such as the manufactured crisis at Laurentian University.

More recently I chaired our Labour Management Committee meeting with the Employer and helped represent our membership's concerns as we head into the Fall 2021 semester. In this regard, our Chief Steward of Unit 1 Brock Bodo has been heavily engaged in collecting membership questions and concerns for the Fall re-opening. I have supported our survey efforts and plans to mobilize for a safer and more democratic campus re-opening. Our Employer needs to be held accountable for a safe re-opening and we must exercise our collective power! On this topic, I also participated as a panelist speaking to campus re-openings at the University of Waterloo, whose TAs are unionizing with CUPE.

I have continued to work on changes to our by-laws and remained engaged in our grievances processes which help advocate for and protect our members in various ways. Finally, I am helping to plan and revamp our Fall Orientation efforts which will take place during an important moment given the novel territory we'll find ourselves in.

In solidarity,
Sharoni Mitra