

CUPE 3906 / *Canadian Union of Public Employees*

March 26, 2018

Dear striking University and College Union members,

On behalf of the CUPE 3906 executive – which represents approximately 3,000 Teaching Assistants, Sessional Faculty, Hourly-Rated Sessional Music Faculty, and Post-Doctoral Fellows at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada – we wish to express our support and solidarity for your brave decision to engage in strike action. We know that in taking this stand to defend and advance your members' working conditions and pensions, you are also taking a stand in defense of strong pensions for all workers in the Britain, and, more broadly, working conditions across the post-secondary sector.

As post-secondary workers ourselves, we are all too familiar with the approach that employers are taking at the bargaining table. There are similar patterns of concession-based, neoliberal bargaining by university and college employers in both Britain and Canada. This seems to be true for both contractual employees and full-time employees, and for both academic and support staff. It is alarming to us that neoliberal universities are increasingly attacking the retirement security – and the deferred wages – of members that unions have long struggled to achieve. In fact, there seem to be many parallels faced by your members as those faced by members of our sister union CUPE Local 2424 at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, who are also on strike to protect retirement security. As a union local who represents primarily young workers who do not have access to a workplace pension, we find your defense of quality pensions for workers to be an inspiration and stand with you in solidarity.

We urge you to stand strong as you continue fighting for your members' retirement security, and, as you have been boldly proclaiming on your picket lines “No Capitulation.”

In Solidarity from across the Atlantic,



Angie Perez
President, CUPE Local 3906