

Dear Comrades,

A belated happy new year to you all!

Over the past four weeks or so I've been working with our staff and other elected officers to get oriented and brought up to speed on active files and ongoing activities in the Local. Some of these things are not entirely new, but there's still been plenty to learn and absorb thus far. Thankfully my student responsibilities have slowed down and I've been able to give my full attention to the Local and our members.

The Unit 4 bargaining team and I met with the employer in early January and we anticipate reaching a deal very soon. I'm sure Unit 4 members will agree when I say that this has been a long time coming and we are very excited to get a strong and fair contract. There will almost certainly be more news on this front at our next GMM.

I have also decided to step down as Co-Chair of the Contract Action Team. Thankfully, we have found a wonderful new Co-Chair in Rand Clayton, who has been serving our Local in a variety of capacities throughout the years. I'm grateful to all CAT members for all the fun and hard work over the past year and look forward to seeing CAT continue to thrive as we start to approach Unit 1 bargaining. The latter will require all hands on deck so I encourage any and all members interested in organizing and mobilizing to join the CAT!

The majority of my work over the past month has been focused on the internal operations of our Local. I have begun work on a full review of our bylaws and will hopefully have a document to share with members in the next month or two. I would greatly appreciate any feedback you have on our bylaws so I can add it to my master list, so please feel free to contact me (president@cupe3906.org) if there are changes you want to see made.

The Executive Committee and I have also had to turn our attention towards bargaining a new collective agreement with our staff. I trust this will be a smooth and friendly process but I must confess I'm not sure I love being on the employer side of the bargaining table...

Beyond internal business, with the help of the Unit 4 bargaining team, I've begun organizing a skating night for the Local at Coronation Arena for some time in February. Keep an eye out for notice about this soon on our Instagram (@cupe3906).

I finally want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me as President. It is an honour and a privilege to serve and represent this incredible Local and I'm very much looking forward to the next few months.

In Solidarity,

Mitchell Lupa