

BULLETIN

FASBU BARGAINING BULLETIN

As the water ran dry during the recent road construction near Nipissing University last Thursday at 3 pm, members of NUFA's Collective Bargaining Committee breathed a collective sigh of relief that the closure of the Education Centre would bring an early end to the day. Since Monday, they had already put in a 40+ hour week at the negotiating table, and like the pipes that were eagerly awaiting connection to the new water main along College Drive, they were feeling drained. Nobody could deny that it had been an extremely productive week, yet they could all sense that the really hard work still lies ahead.

During these four days of intensive bargaining the Committee has come to agreement on 11 articles and 2 appendices, which represent a hefty proportion of the non-monetary proposals brought to the table by both sides. This progress is the result of the professional and respectful environment at the table that has facilitated a great deal of frank and no-nonsense discussion with the Employer. This has made an arduous chore almost bearable. At least we don't have to worry about poor table manners.

There remain, however, some incredibly tough issues to negotiate. We've brought a package of proposals to the table that we think will protect the core academic mission of Nipissing and make this a great university at

Your Collective Bargaining Committee

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which to teach, research, and engage in service.

The Employer, on the other hand, has brought a package of proposals that aims at nothing less than the Wal-Martization of the institution, where profits come before people, the vital energy of Members is ignored, and decisions are made by administrative *fiat*. Not only will this make the institution a challenging place to work, but it will also chip away at what has always been the bedrock of this university's strength – ask any student who calls Nipissing his/her *alma mater* – the leadership and passion NUFA Members bring day after day, inside and outside the classroom, to create the Nipissing experience.

That's what the Collective Bargaining team will be fighting for in the coming days. We are back at the table on Monday and Friday of this week.

Just as the new water main along College Drive brings the promise of the steady flow of a vital resource to keep the institution running for years to come, so too a new collective agreement that respects and encourages Members promises to channel the vital resources of faculty to the university. But we need to ensure there is sufficient pressure in those pipes and that is where you come in. The Collective Bargaining Committee will be counting on your support in the coming weeks to make our vision of the university a reality. Take another look at our summer bargaining bulletins and see what we are fighting for on your behalf: <http://www.nufa.ca/collectivebargaining.html>

The most tangible way you can show us your support is in the tough days to come. When we call a meeting, we need to see you there. **Stay tuned.**