
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2018

Halifax Water employees approve strike mandate

HALIFAX- After 12 days of bargaining, workers at Halifax Water, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 227, have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action.

CUPE National Representative Karen MacKenzie says there were 13 concessions on the table at the start of bargaining, most of which will negatively affect work-life balance.

“We asked the employer at the outset to remove anything that wasn’t going to facilitate a deal,” MacKenzie says. “They refused to remove the concessions, and we can’t bargain with nine concessions still on the table.”

Bargaining broke off October 30, and CUPE applied for conciliation on October 31.

Local 227 President Dave Dort says “We are disappointed, considering the previous labour disruption three years ago, that the employer came to the table with an extensive list of concessions. It’s disrespectful to the employees and contrary to what they led us to believe going into bargaining.”

The 230 employees provide clean drinking water and treat wastewater and storm-water for the citizens of the Halifax Regional Municipality. The last time the local experienced a labour disruption was in 2015, in an effort to protect pensions. That labour disruption lasted 53 days.

For more information please contact:

Dave Dort, President
CUPE Local 227
902-237-0125

Karen MacKenzie
CUPE National Representative
902-899-0840

Gaëlle McNeil
CUPE Communications
902-471-8923