

FULL-TIME BARGAINING BULLETIN #10

8 April 2010

This is the tenth Bulletin published during bargaining for an 11th full-time contract between the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers and the University of New Brunswick administration. Negotiations for full-time academic staff at UNB have been underway for ten months.

UPDATE: Conciliation Board

In our last bulletin, issued shortly after the decision by the provincial minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Donald Arseneault to appoint a Conciliation Board, we reported that the employer had refused AUNBT's request to continue bargaining while the Conciliation Board was being established. This refusal further prolongs the collective bargaining process.

The three-member Conciliation Board has been formed. AUNBT nominated Douglas Lorimer (Wilfred Laurier University), the employer nominated Morgan Cooper (Memorial University of Newfoundland), and these two members agreed to name Andrew Sims, a lawyer and arbitrator from Edmonton as Board chair. Recall that the report of the conciliation board is not binding; it is a recommendation to the parties.

Initial Conciliation Board meetings are scheduled in the second and fourth weeks of May. If no agreement is reached through these meetings, the Board will decide whether to continue with mediation or to proceed to final hearings. If the Board moves directly to hearings, they could occur as early as June. However, the actual dates will be determined by the availability of the board members and the two bargaining teams. After deliberation on the parties' final arguments, the Board would write a final report, including recommendations to the parties. Under this time-line, the first opportunity for a lock-out or strike is not likely to arise before July.

To ensure that members continue to be informed on the status of negotiations, AUNBT held four well-attended membership information meetings, two meetings on each campus, on March 17th and 18th with members of the full-time bargaining team in attendance. A handout summarizing the issues agreed to and those still outstanding was distributed. Chief negotiator Lloyd Waugh spoke frankly to the membership on the state of negotiations, the outstanding issues including changes sought by the administration to the definition and deadlines for declaring a financial emergency, language around the 13-university comparison group, and salaries. Each meeting featured energetic questions and discussion.

If you were unable to attend the membership information meetings in March and would like to receive your copy of the handout or have questions, please contact your Collective Bargaining Representative and monitor: <http://aunbt.caut.ca/ftcollectivebargaining.html>

Your AUNBT bargaining team: Lloyd Waugh (chief negotiator), Miriam Jones, Charlene Mayes, Rick McGaw, John Neilson and Steve Turner

Working conditions for teachers are learning conditions for students.