

University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association

Bargaining Bulletin #2019-23

November 21, 2019

Message from the Chief Negotiator:

Dear Colleagues,

We met with the Employer at 9:04 AM today. The Employer's bargaining team presented a settlement offer until 11 AM, after which both parties caucused. We resumed at 2:40 PM to ask the Employer further questions about the proposal. At 4:01 PM we returned to our caucus room to draft a response, which we presented to the Employer at 8:30 PM. Our response is a complete settlement offer, including five memoranda of understanding aimed at settling contentious issues and bringing this difficult round of bargaining to a close. Unfortunately, the Employer's Chief Negotiator responded poorly to our presentation, indicating that she viewed our rapid response as disrespectful. We were asked to leave the room at 8:39 PM, when we had just begun to present. We were permitted to return at 8:55 PM. We attempted to resume presenting our proposal, but the Employer's Chief Negotiator scolded us for presenting a counter-offer before leaving the room at 9:09 to deal with a critical situation.

The Employer is unable to meet with us again until afternoon tomorrow because of the closed Board of Governors meeting. We know that this further delay will be frustrating for you, for CUPE and UniteHere staff who are supporting us, and for our students, whose semester hangs in the balance. Know that your efforts and sacrifices, and those of our allies, are having an effect.

We look forward to resuming bargaining tomorrow. With the semester on the line, we are anxious to conclude the new collective agreement and return us all--faculty, staff, and students alike--to campus.

Ted Binnema, Chief Negotiator, UNBC FA, and the rest of the team: Jacqueline Holler, Umesh Parshotam, Matt Reid, Donna Sindaco, and Stephen Rader (*ex officio*).



Rm. 3085/3089 Charles J. McCaffray Hall