

NewsRelease



Public Service Alliance of Canada | Representing 160,000 workers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Canada Post on the brink of a strike

Ottawa—Canada Post management is bringing a group of its employees to the brink of a strike by trying to impose a new Short-term Disability System that was clearly rejected by almost 9 out of 10 of those employees. The workers are represented by the Union of Postal Communications Employees (UPCE), a component of the 160,000 member Public Service Alliance of Canada

“Canada Post recently signed collective agreements with other larger groups of employees and never imposed this ludicrous Short-term Disability System on them,” said John Gordon, PSAC National President. “Why is Canada Post trying to impose it on a smaller group of PSAC members?” He added.

UPCE-PSAC members recently voted 88% in favour of strike action against Canada Post. It was the strongest strike mandate in their union’s history. The national strike vote took place at membership meetings between October 1 and October 17, 2008.

Canada Post also tabled a meagre wage increase offer of 2.25% per year for each year of a four-year contract. The union maintains that 3% per year for a three-year contract is in line with other settlements that Canada Post has recently negotiated with other unions.

Gordon indicated that the negotiations have broken off, but that the union is ready to return to the bargaining table at any time if Canada Post decides to truly engage in meaningful bargaining.

Gordon acknowledged that there was some progress made over the past few days, but that the employer’s amended proposal on Short-term disability remains totally unacceptable to the membership.

The collective agreement between UPCE/PSAC and Canada Post expired on August 31, 2008. The union served the employer a notice to bargain on May 1, 2008, and the negotiations began on June 4, 2008.

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