



PSAC-UPCE

BARGAINING UPDATE



STAMP OUT

workplace unfairness!

September 2, 2008

Dear member,

We are committed to bargaining fairly and getting you the best deal that we can possibly achieve. To that end, the union tabled a comprehensive offer to settle on August 21, 2008. The employer then responded to us on August 27, 2008.

In tabling their response, CPC took an all or nothing approach. In fact they wrote: “no single item or group of items may be considered separately from the rest.” In other words, a package deal, take it or leave it.

Your team was clear - this offer is unacceptable. Despite our best efforts to take a reasonable approach to bargaining, it is further evidence that our proposals were not being taken seriously and, more importantly, that there was no recognition or respect shown for the contributions that you have made over the years.

The team has taken it as far as we could – so now it’s up to you.

What follows is a detailed summary of the most recent offers tabled by your union and by the employer. The table below reflects the parties’ positions as of August 29, 2008. This table is organized by theme.

You are encouraged to review it and to compare for yourself.

Requesting a strike mandate is serious business. But so is getting a decent collective agreement. Obviously we want to settle with the employer – but not at any cost.

Your employer needs to know what you think of their offer and we need to show Canada Post that we are willing to take action to defend our fundamental right to a fair workplace and to workplace respect.

Over the coming weeks, representatives from your bargaining team will be attending local strike vote meetings and will be available to answer your questions.

In solidarity,

Your bargaining team

Monetary		
Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Wage increase (AA)	Increase of 3% per year	Administrative categories: increase of between 1% and 1.25% per year, depending on classification; Technical categories: increase of between 1.75% and 2% per year, depending on classification
Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) (31)	COLA to be paid if inflation exceeds 8% cumulatively over 3 years	No specific response
Pay administration (31)	Maintain current entitlements	Incremental progression no longer automatic. They are to be based on performance appraisal: If appraisal = 1, no increment If appraisal = 2, one increment If appraisal = 3, two increments
Bilingual bonus (C)	Increase to \$1200 per year	Refused proposed change
Child Care (H)	Increase funding for child care programs	Refused proposed change
Overtime meal allowance (26)	Increase to \$10 meal allowance	Refused proposed change
Travel per diem (26)	Increase to \$80 per diem and increase to Km rate	Refused proposed change
Individual Performance Incentive (K)	Maintain current entitlements	Increase to IPI
Benefits and Pension		
Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Drug Plan	Maintain principle that no member should lose current entitlements	Introduce a new one-tier drug plan with reduced formulary - like CUPW. Drugs that are currently in tier 2 or 3 will require a form to be filled out by employee's doctors.¹
Vision and hearing benefits (37)	Increase to vision and hearing plans, including new entitlement for laser eye surgery	Conditional on accepting the new drug plan: Increases to vision and hearing plans, including new entitlement for laser eye surgery
Paramedical Benefits (O)	Increases to caps on paramedical benefits	Conditional on accepting the new drug plan: Increases to caps on paramedical benefits
Retiree Benefits (37)	Maintain current entitlements	Retirees to be eligible for benefits only after 15 years of service *

Leave		
Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Sick leave (43)	Maintain current entitlements	Eliminate sick leave and replace it with a Short term disability program² *
Family-related leave (42.11)	Maintain current entitlements and expand definition of family	Eliminate Family related leave and replace it with a Short term disability program²
Vacation leave (40)	Maintain current entitlements	Eliminate the entitlement to 7th week of vacation leave after 28 years of service *
Leave for medical appointments (New)	Introduce leave with pay for members to attend medical or dental appointments	To be covered by Short Term Disability Program²
Education leave (44)	Ensure that leave for educational purposes is not unreasonably denied	Refused proposed change
Bereavement leave (42.02)	5 days of leave with an expanded definition of family	4 days of leave - one day can be taken separately. No change to family definition
Pre-retirement leave (42.17)	Increased flexibility to take the time - and can be taken in blocks of one day	Leave can be taken in blocks of one day – no increased flexibility
Elder and child care without pay (42.14)	Allow members to take this unpaid leave not subject to operational requirements	Refused proposed change
Elder and child care without pay (42.14)	Employees can take blocks of 2 weeks for elder or child care	Employees can take blocks of 2 weeks for elder care only
Job Security, Bargaining Unit Issues		
Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Job Security (28)	Job security to apply to all employees on the date of signing	Weakened job security: only applies to employees with five years of service and on strength in 2005
Work in the Bargaining Unit (7)	Strengthened language - others not to perform PSAC/UPCE work and no contracting out	Refused proposed change
Group measurement and surveillance (New)	Limits to be placed on employer's ability to individually measure employees' work and surveil employees in the workplace.	Refused proposed change
Coop Program (New)	No Change	Introduce a coop program to employ students
Service Expansion and Innovation and Change Committee (M)	Improvements to funding and expansion of the committee's mandate	Refused proposed change

Hours of Work, Overtime, Staffing

Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Contact centre prep and wrap up time (25)	Contact centre employees to receive 10 minute paid prep time and 10 minute paid wrap up time where they do not have to take a call	Refused proposed change
Paid lunch (25)	Provide a paid half hour lunch period for all members	Refused proposed change
Scheduling at Contact Centres (25)	Alter scheduling and introduce a fair process for allotting overtime and extended hours	Reduce the length of the schedule to 7 days for part time term employees, 42 days for part-time indeterminate, and extend to 84 days for full time employees³
Scheduling at Contact Centres (25)	Maintain current entitlements	Shorten the posting period for the schedule to 7 days
Surplus employee entitlements (28)	No employee to be denied ability to apply for a job because of an existing assignment	Refused proposed change
Term employee entitlements (27)	Terms to become permanent when in the same position for one year	Refused proposed change
Term employee entitlements (4)	No artificial break in service to deny term employees their entitlements	Refused proposed change
Overtime (26)	Pay for all time worked - overtime to kick in immediately when working overtime	Refused proposed change
Part time entitlements (4)	Part timers to get benefits in proportion to amount of hours worked or scheduled	Refused proposed change
Part time entitlements (25)	Pay at overtime rates when a part time employee's hours are changed less than a week before the shift	Pay at overtime rates when a part time employee's hours are changed less than 3 days before the shift
Part time entitlements (39)	Part timers to get benefits in proportion to amount of hours worked or scheduled	Part time employees to be paid no less than scheduled hours on a holiday
Other		
Article	PSAC/UPCE	CPC
Grievance Procedure (19)	Simplified grievance language	Simplified grievance language

List of Items that have been agreed to in principle⁴

Staffing (27)	Employees to be notified when screened out of a competition
Staffing (27)	Employees to remain on transfer list for 2 years
Shift Premiums (32)	Increase of 20 cents to evening premium and 25 cents to night/weekend premium
Pension	Letter of understanding to give union more control over any surplus
Dental fee guide (37)	Updated fee guide, lagging behind by a year
No Harassment (14)	Improved anti-harassment language, including personal harassment

NB: Any employer demand which is marked with an asterisk (*) includes provisions to grandfather current employees. E.g. employees that currently have 7 weeks of vacation would keep their 7 weeks. Any employee who doesn't yet have 7 weeks would never get it.

¹ Drug Plan: the employer has proposed a new drug plan. It would be one-tier, instead of the current three-tiered system. **The formulary would be greatly reduced from the current formulary.** Drugs that are currently in tier 2 and 3 (reimbursed at 69% and 50%) would require extra forms to be filled out by the employee's doctor and may no longer be covered. The new formulary, like tier 1 of the current plan would be reimbursed at 80%. Grandfathering will occur only for employees who were prescribed a drug in 2008.

² Short term disability plan: The employer has proposed the implementation of a plan to replace the current sick and family-related leave provisions in the collective agreement. **The plan would include reducing the current 20 annual days of paid sick and family-related leave to 7 'personal days'.** These days would not roll over, but would be paid out if unused.

³ Scheduling changes: the employer has proposed a 7 day shift schedule posting period in contact centres. Also, they have proposed a significantly shorter schedule for part-time term employees (7 days), a shorter schedule for part-time indeterminate employees (42 days) and a longer schedule for full-time employees (84 days).

⁴ While these have been agreed to in principle at the table, Canada Post has reserved the right to pull any agreements off the table if we don't come to a tentative agreement.