

**A message from McMaster University to Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants (holding an RA in lieu of a TA)**

After almost 24 straight hours of negotiations CUPE 3906, Unit 1 rejected the University's latest and best contract offer.

At the same time, the union's bargaining team decided TAs and RAs shouldn't be given the opportunity to make their opinions known. They have refused a University request to let you vote on this offer.

**CUPE has asked the University to make space available for a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Burridge Gymnasium (Registration will begin at 3:00p.m.).**

**All TAs and RAs are encouraged to keep themselves informed and attend this meeting.**

**[http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/labour\\_relations/cupe\\_2.html](http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/labour_relations/cupe_2.html)**

You've received information by now about the University's latest offer

Class A TAs and RAs would earn \$39.40/hr by the end of the contract. Class B TAs would earn \$22.15/hr. These are the highest wage rates we've ever proposed during these negotiations, which began back in June.

The University's best offer includes:

- Increased pay rates for graduate TAs and RAs to \$39.40/hr over the two year term of the contract
- Increased pay rates for undergraduate TAs to \$22.15
- Increased university contribution to the dental plan that will save all members \$3.00 per month
- Maintenance of the University's \$150,000 contribution to the union-administered benefit fund
- Protection from working past the end of term and job guarantee provisions

You can read the highlights of the offer and the full text here:

**[http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/labour\\_relations/cupe\\_2.html](http://www.mcmaster.ca/opr/labour_relations/cupe_2.html)**

Calling a strike is a significant step and to do so without at least letting TAs and RAs vote doesn't seem fair to either the bargaining unit members or the students who will be most impacted by a strike. It's not too late for CUPE to reconsider its decision and to call a vote before any picket lines are in place. Let your voice be heard, notify your union representative.

Thank you