



October 26, 2009

A message to our students from McMaster University

CUPE Local 3906, Unit 1 which represents Teaching Assistants and some Research Assistants will be in a legal strike position as of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, October 31. A work stoppage will only happen if the union calls a strike. McMaster will not lock out TAs and RAs.

Negotiations to reach a new contract have been underway for several months. Here's an overview of progress to date:

- The University and union have been meeting since June and we've made good progress, with agreement on the majority of contract language.
- The University is offering TAs and RAs a raise of \$1.30 an hour (Class A - \$39.30/hr., Class B - \$22.05/hr.).
- Talks continue October 29 and 30 and the University believes a deal is within reach.

As these talks continue, McMaster's top priority continues to be our students and providing the best quality education. The University will remain open and classes will continue.

However, there will be some changes and impacts should the union decide to strike. Here are a few reminders for students:

- Classes will continue but there could be changes in classroom and lecture hall locations. Your instructor will inform you of these changes.
- Tutorials and labs could be affected. Your instructor will provide information about any changes and every effort will be made to minimize the impact of these changes.
- If you have yet to activate your McMaster e-mail account, you should do so now. You will be receiving regular updates via your McMaster e-mail

address. If you have a question about your McMaster e-mail address, visit <https://mugsi.mcmaster.ca>

You can find updated information at:

- The Daily News – <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca>
- The Students information website:
http://mcmaster.ca/opr/students_parents/student.html
- The Parents information website:
http://mcmaster.ca/opr/students_parents/parent.html
- McMaster's Twitter feed - <http://twitter.com/McMasterUpdates>

If there is a strike and the union sets up picket lines at the University there will be delays getting onto campus. You will need to take this into consideration when planning your travel to and from McMaster.