

## Labour relations update

2012-05-28



Since November 2011 the university has been in collective bargaining with the United Steelworkers (USW) toward a first collective agreement with General Support Staff (Grades 2-9).

The university and the union have made significant progress, reaching agreement on many items. At this point in the bargaining process they agree they would benefit from the assistance of a provincial conciliation officer.

"A conciliation officer is a neutral third party who can help us reach a negotiated settlement," says Al Orth, Associate Vice-Principal (Human Resources). "We are both committed to working through some outstanding issues."

The union has applied to the Ministry of Labour for a conciliation officer to be appointed, and the university has jointly asked them to appoint a senior officer who is familiar with the post secondary sector.

Bargaining between the university and USW toward a first agreement for general staff will continue two days next week without the assistance of a conciliation officer. Conciliation is planned for some or all of six additional bargaining dates currently scheduled for June.

Negotiations between the university and the Public Service Alliance of Canada toward a first agreement for post doctoral fellows are in early stages. Negotiations continue with dates set for July 4, 5, 6.

The university also continues to negotiate with Ontario Public Service Employees Union toward a first contract for the Family Health Team. Good progress has been made to date. Future bargaining dates are set for May 30 and June 6.

Discussions between the university and USW toward a first agreement for academic assistants have been very positive and future dates are expected to be scheduled in July.

New collective agreements were ratified last year with the [Queen's University Faculty Association](#) and with the [three campus locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees](#). The university and the [Ontario Nurses Association ratified a first contract for the nurses in Queen's Family Health Team](#), and [the university and PSAC agreed to a first contract for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows](#).

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