



United Campus Labour Council

26 April 2016

Dear members of the UGSW, PSAC 60550:

The **United Campus Labour Council**, a network of certified trade unions at St. Thomas University and the University of New Brunswick, supports your efforts to convince UNB's Board of Governors to provide the university with a new bargaining mandate.

While we are pleased that you have made progress at the table on such important issues as sexual and personal harassment, discrimination, abuse of authority, whistle blowing and violence in the workplace, the university's unwillingness to negotiate on their current monetary offer is a cause for concern for many unions in the UCLC, who are also bargaining in 2016-17. The employer's intransigence indicates a lack of respect for graduate student workers and for the collective bargaining process itself.

The university's current offer of 8% over eight years is ludicrous. An eight-year framework is clearly out of line with most collective agreements. Moreover, an offer of 1% per year does not take into consideration the high tuition environment faced by graduate students at UNB, as well as the anticipated increases to ancillary fees and international student differential fees. The offer does not come close to matching what graduate student workers earn at other universities such as Carleton, Guelph, Simon Fraser and Waterloo. It also does not even keep pace with the projected increase in the cost of living.

A reasonable offer would make little financial impact on the university as a whole. If the university truly wishes to recruit and retain top-notch graduate students from across Canada, and prove that they are one of Canada's best employers, they must come back to the table and negotiate with their graduate students.

In Solidarity,

Bonnie Huskins & Sharon Smith, Co-Chairs of the UCLC,

On behalf of the following members of the UCLC:

AUNBT (Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers), UNBF/UNBSJ

CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) 3339, UNBSJ

FAUST (Faculty Association of the University of St. Thomas)

PTSU (Professional and Technical Staff Union), PSAC 60551, UNBF/UNBSJ

PIPSC (Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada), NRC RO/RCO Group

STUSAU (St. Thomas University Support & Administration Union) PSAC 60701

UNBEA (UNB Employees Association)/UNIFOR 4504, UNBF

And the following observers of the UCLC:

FDLC (Fredericton & District Labour Council)

FNBF (Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations)