

Defence Fund Report

Date: October 5, 2017

To: CAUT Council

From: Tom Booth, President

At the time of the Spring 2017 Council meeting, there were no Defence Fund Member Unions in a position of approved strike benefits with possible strike impending. In the period since, the picture has significantly changed and the Fund's Trustees have been engaged in a range of various initiatives by Member Unions. That said, it is incumbent on me to first state that it has been the interests and actions of formerly non-member Unions which have strengthened the Fund, both materially and spiritually. More specifically, the Faculty Unions at Lethbridge University (ULFA), on 24 May 2017, and at the University of Calgary (TUCFA), on 11 July 2017, have joined as Member Unions. Obviously, this materially strengthens the Fund but also, with the addition of the ULFA & TUCFA, solidarity more firmly resides continuously across the country and their joining represents a more coherent and tighter woven bundle of Defence Fund Member Unions right across the landscape.

Generally, the Trustees have taken action to increase the number of Union Classes above the 59 stipulated in the Fund's Bylaw, Article 2.2, and to change the Bylaw to legally accommodate the initial staggering of terms of office in the case of newly joining Unions with multiple Trustees. Possible events of the weeks and months ahead could well result in clear demonstration of the need for a higher number of Classes.

Over the reporting period, meetings of the DF Trustees also resulted in:

1. the approval of a Mediation Arbitration Benefit and a Bargaining Rights Defence Benefit for the Faculty Union at the University of Manitoba (UMFA); and
2. the approval of Daily Strike Benefits for the Faculty Unions at Windsor University (WUFA), Acadia University (AUFA), Laurentian (LUFA), and Ontario University Institute of Technology (OUITFA).

To date (4 October), WUFA settled and ratified an agreement in September, AUFA and OUITFA are in negotiations, and LUFA Sisters and Brothers are on strike. The first DF Flying Picket to LUFA's lines is organized for 6 October. We expect to hear from WUFA, AUFA, OUITFA, and LUFA, at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the DF Trustees in Toronto and in this fall's CAUT Council meeting.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the diligent work done over the year by Jeff, the Fund Secretary; Margaret; Valérie; Émilie; Lynn; Chantal V.; Deborah; Joshua; and Marcel. The Fund benefits immeasurably as a result of their contributions. Apologies to anyone I have missed.

Submitted in solidarity ... Tom Booth