

WHY?

Colleges reject Union's last-ditch offer of settlement and forces strike

Local 242 and our division has been represented at the Bargaining Table by Vice President Ravi Ramkissoonsingh. We asked him to take us through a timeline of what happened during the last crucial days of bargaining.

Things were happening, but not the things we thought...

FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY MORNING
CAAT-A Bargaining Team prepared a final offer for settlement—streamlined our demands to the “must, must-haves” in a last-ditch effort to avoid a strike.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON
Presented offer to College Employer Council (CEC) through mediator at 4:30 pm.

SATURDAY EVENING
Mediator came back at 7 pm and said that CEC would have a response on Sunday. The Mediator acknowledged all of the work that we had done to try to get a settlement and avert a strike.

SUNDAY AT NOON
CEC finally responded with a rejection of the offer. They continue saying that their final offer from last Tuesday is the only basis for settlement. They would have no further formal offer that day.

As things stand right now, the two sides have been ordered to ‘cool off’ by the Mediator—perhaps for up to a week. However, either of the two sides can choose to go back to the table if they think that progress could be made.

DAY ONE : Niagara Centre MPP and NDP Labour Critic Cindy Forster visited striking faculty on the picket lines at Niagara College this morning, and had a chance to talk to Niagara's president Dan Patterson about the issues.



Strike Twitter Guide

Creating a “picketing” Twitter account:

If you feel comfortable, you can tweet from your own account. If you need some more “cover”, you can create a separate account to protect your identity.

In this case, if you currently have an account, log out of it. Create a new account. If you don't currently have a Twitter account, you can create one: go to twitter.com, click Sign Up, and follow the instructions.

Make sure you don't allow others to find you by phone number: uncheck that box.

Use the “I Stand With College Faculty” circular profile image that [@CollegeOnStrike](https://twitter.com/CollegeOnStrike) is using, if you'd like. Our Local 242 account is [@opseulocal242](https://twitter.com/opseulocal242).

Although you won't have any followers initially, you'll still be able to participate in strike conversations, using hashtags. If you include a hashtag in your post, other people who are “following” the hashtags will be able to find you, retweet you and engage with you.

There's a list below of “hashtags to disrupt”: these are hashtags that the colleges continue to use for marketing purposes. Using these hashtags to communicate key messages about the reason we're striking will disrupt the colleges' ability to use these hashtags without engaging with us.

Please feel free to interrupt all of the colleges' hashtags, not just your own!

General strike hashtags:

#StandWithFaculty [this is the main hashtag we are using to organize faculty support]

#CollegeStrike

College-specific hashtags to disrupt

There are two that relate directly to Niagara:

#Amazing50 (this one is used by all of the colleges)

#MyNCStory (Niagara)

...there are many more.

The following accounts have scheduled content that you can easily retweet:

[@FacultyOnStrike](https://twitter.com/FacultyOnStrike)

[@CollegeOnStrike](https://twitter.com/CollegeOnStrike)

[@StandWithFac](https://twitter.com/StandWithFac)

[@OPSEU_Local558](https://twitter.com/OPSEU_Local558)



**It's going
to take more
than coffee, Dan.**

**We have
a better plan**



Sketching the line

Professor and fine artist, James Giefeldt jotted down this impression from the first day on the picket line.

Pics, stories from the line? Students picketing with us?

Send them to us, so we can share them

Facebook : <http://bit.ly/2ywpcto>

Twitter : [@opseulocal242](https://twitter.com/opseulocal242)

email : OPSEU242@opseu242.com

