

CUPE COMMUNIQUE

Canadian Union of Public Employees **CUPE.ca**

For Immediate Release

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School Support Workers to file 48-hours notice, plan to host “Trunk or Treat” rallies at MLA Constituency Offices across the Province

HALIFAX, NS – Today, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) School Support Workers represented by eight locals across the province will file their 48-hours notice of strike action.

Local leaders say workers will be off the job on Monday, November 2, if government does not agree to a \$3.50/hour increase for all members by 2029 this weekend.

“We came back to the bargaining table anticipating that government would make meaningful changes to their final offer. Ultimately, what they brought us does not get most members to \$3.50 by 2030, let alone by 2029,” said Nelson Scott, Nova Scotia School Board Council of Unions (NSSBCU) Chair and CUPE Local 5050 President.

At 3:00 AM, after 8 hours of bargaining, the Employers and government revealed their wage offer: 9.86% over 5 years, which amounts to \$2.22 over 5 years for those who would receive the least...more than \$1 short of what you deserve over 4 years. The Employer also gave the NSSBCU the option of a two year deal, and a four year deal, but the wages in all options fell far short of what members deserve.

“These jobs used to be good jobs. They were jobs that let members contribute to their local communities, be baseball coaches or girl guide leaders in their spare time. Custodians at the Chignecto Regional Centre for Education made \$12.92/hour in the year 2000, when minimum wage was \$5.60. If those wages had kept track with minimum wage, they’d be making \$42.50 today.”

“Adding another year to a bad offer doesn’t make it a better offer. We’re disappointed that government doesn’t seem to think there will be a problem when we’re force to hit the streets.”

– 30 –

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