

## BUFA 2008 Pre-strike Primer

There will be an informal question and answer session on **Friday, 26 September, in the Evans Theatre at 1:40 p.m.** regarding strike protocols. This primer anticipates some possible questions and concerns.

You should have received (or you will receive very shortly) a form on which you are asked to indicate your picketing shift preferences. These must be **returned to your Area Representative by noon on Thursday, September 25**. If we don't receive this from you, we'll have to assume that you do not intend to honour the picket line or collect strike pay.

Strike headquarters are at Park Community Centre, 1428 Louise Avenue. The first possible day of strike action is Monday, 29 September, 2008.

We sincerely hope a strike does not become necessary, but if it does:

Your BUFA area representative or a Picket Captain will inform you of the times of your first picketing shifts (all members will work two 1.5 hour, non-consecutive shifts per day). At least 15 minutes prior to the start of your shift you must register at Strike Headquarters, get your picket and proceed to your assigned location. At the end of your shift, please return to headquarters and sign out. You may picket longer if you like, but you must do 3 hours of picketing (or, for members who are physically unable to picket, alternative duties approved in advance by the Strike Action Committee) Monday through Friday to qualify for strike pay.

As you have already been reminded, strike pay is primarily intended to keep food on your family's table. Please make pre-strike arrangements for dealing with regular bills and expenses.

The BUFA web site (<http://www.bufa.org>) will provide you with up-to-date strike information, including phone numbers for Strike Headquarters and Strike Action Committee members.

Please do not count on continued availability of university telephone or email services during strike action.

General questions concerning the strike should be directed to your BUFA area representative. Any questions during your shift should be directed to your shift captain who will be walking with you and who is responsible for on-the-spot decisions. Please find out who your shift captain is when you sign in.

Whatever task you are assigned, that becomes *your job* during the strike. Think of missing a shift as you would missing a class. Please give the Picket Chief reasonable notice if illness prevents you from fulfilling an assigned task. Solidarity would suggest

that all members contribute equally to the effort, so wherever possible missed shifts should be made up.

The purpose of a picket line is to make it obvious to everyone entering university grounds that they are crossing a line. You must not impede anyone's access but everyone entering campus should be aware that they are crossing a picket line. Those who believe our cause is important to the future of Brandon University should have the opportunity to express their support: Visitors to the picket line are always welcome. Be sure to express your appreciation for their support.

**In the event of a strike BUFA will request complete withdrawal of services by every member.** Do not enter campus for the duration of the strike unless you have been issued an official pass by the Strike Action Committee – for such approved purposes as caring for research animals or providing essential counselling. Members should not engage in any university-related administrative or instructional duties, either on or off-campus during the duration of a strike. **Remove everything you might need from your office prior to strike action:** files, data, books, etc. BUFA members will be expected to honour the picket line as if it were present **24 hours a day**. Crossing one's own picket line is generally frowned upon (see your dictionary's definition of 'understatement').

Although picketing is legal strike action, pickets must not trespass on the employer's property: Please stick to your designated picket area. While the informed public and most students will support us as we walk there will be those who will voice disapproval from the comfort of their cars. Choose your moments of debate wisely. We request that you refer any interview requests from media to Bruce Forrest for the duration of the strike.

Since picketing may involve more walking than you are accustomed to, your feet may become sore. Please wear your most comfortable pair of walking shoes and a good pair of socks. Be sure to consult the weather forecast each day and dress appropriately.

Obviously, we hope that if strike action becomes necessary it will not last long. The employer has the means to end a strike reasonably and quickly. Let's show that we are united in our commitment to improving BUFA working conditions and achieving a settlement that is just and equitable.

Wayne Bowman  
Chair, Strike Action Committee