

Bargaining Update from BUFA

#3 – Agree to agree

Dear BUFA members,

Bargaining has been progressing slowly but surely. We have not updated you for a while because little has been resolved at the table. Since the last update in February, we have had three meetings with the Employer, and are only now able to report that we have reached agreement on a negotiating protocol—the document that will govern how we proceed for the rest of this round of bargaining.

Latest News

- We welcomed an Indigenous knowledge-keeper to the second bargaining meeting to smudge and officially open negotiations with an Indigenous presence.
- We have a negotiating protocol. The highlights include agreement to hold some negotiating meetings on the Winnipeg campus and to allow for experts to join the negotiating table.
- We made a concerted attempt to include observers at the table, but were ultimately not successful in convincing the Employer on this point.

What they said...

- They were initially keen on the idea of exploring “Indigenous ways of bargaining”, but after BUFA’s research and consultation with experts revealed no information, they abandoned the idea.
- They were concerned that observers at the table would reduce transparency and limit their ability to speak freely.

What’s next?

- We have scheduled three bargaining sessions in the weeks of April 24th and May 1st.
- We briefly presented our list of priorities to the Employer and the next meeting will be a more fulsome exchange of priorities, issues, and articles to open.

We continue to work with support teams in preparing language and to line up experts to speak to a number of issues.

In solidarity,

Your Negotiating Team

Lisa Robson
Alex Braun
Derrek Eberts
JT Godin
Jane Karpa