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Graduate Student Union at Queen's University Prepares for Upcoming Strike Mandate Vote

“Bargaining has been ongoing for months now with little progress. When Queen’s walked away from the table in December, our members were disappointed but not deterred. We recognize the value of our work as graduate student-workers and are determined to ensure that Queen’s administration does so too.” PSAC 901 President - Astrid Hobill.

When January came with no commitment to new dates from the employer, PSAC DCL 901 filed for conciliation and union members began a series of Strike Information Sessions at departments across Queen’s University. Today will mark the culmination of that campaign with the second of two virtual Townhalls open to graduate student-workers in all departments. The sessions primarily focused on next steps in the bargaining process, should Queen’s fail to engage meaningfully with 901’s proposals going forward. The Townhalls are an opportunity for 901 members to ask questions, discuss the path forward and voice any concerns. “The bargaining team is very pleased with the support we are receiving from members at these meetings. So many have asked what they can do to help! They are eager for Queen’s to start taking their work and wellbeing seriously and resolved to reach a fair agreement.” Rohit Revi – 901 Vice President of Research Assistants and Bargaining Team member. Both the [AMS](#) (Undergraduate Student Government) and [QUFA](#) (Queen’s Faculty Association), have also come out in support for PSAC 901’s bargaining demands.

In recent years, graduate student-workers have experienced increasing precarity due to a number of ongoing issues, including low funding packages and increased costs of living. The pandemic has further exposed the severe lack of mental health supports, difficulties in accessing accommodations, the lack of action around sexual violence prevention, and the urgent need for anti-racist education and action at Queen’s University. [901’s demands](#) were formed accordingly.

- Paid and mandatory sexual violence prevention and anti-racism training.
- Clearer and more accessible accommodation processes.
- Better preventive and responsive mental health supports.
- An additional year of employment contract guarantee.
- Hardship and professional development funds.
- Expense reimbursement for remote work

Both sides are back to the table with the provincially appointed conciliator today. A strike mandate vote has been set for Monday February 14th.

[PSAC 901](#) is the union of Graduate Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Research Assistants (Unit 1) and Postdoctoral Scholars (Unit 2) at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. 901 is a directly chartered local of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Get more information about our demands and the bargaining process [here](#). Or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).

For more information or to arrange interviews please contact 901’s Information Officer – Brittainy Bonnis at info.officer.psa901@gmail.com.