

PSAC 901

PSAC 901 at Queen's University stands in solidarity with the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (the "Carpenters") who went on a province-wide strike as of May 9th, 2022.

Members of the Carpenters' Union – carpenters in the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector of the construction industry – continued to work tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic building critical infrastructure while also generating unprecedented profits for the ICI sector. When the workers asked for fair wages to reflect their contributions and account for the skyrocketing costs of groceries, housing and gasoline, their employers presented an unacceptable and insultingly low proposal.

As [Josh Rubin from the Toronto Star](#) reported in December 2021, "the construction industry was one of just a handful of industries in Ontario that grew in 2020, up 0.3 per cent to \$50.9 billion, according to Statistics Canada. The number of new housing starts rose by 18 per cent in 2020, hitting a record 80,000 new starts, and is on course for an even higher number in 2021." It is shocking that people who helped carry one of the biggest industries through the pandemic are disrespected by the employers who profited and continue to make exorbitant profits riding on the backs of the workers.

We call on the employers to return to the bargaining table and engage with reasonable and justified demands of the workers.

Sources:

<https://www.thestar.com/business/2021/12/15/the-construction-industry-kept-ontarios-economy-going-through-the-pandemic-its-employees-should-be-compensated-new-report-finds.html>

https://centreforfuturework.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/122100-1_ProvincialBuilding-PostCovidEconReport.pdf

<https://thecarpentersunion.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Press-Release-CDCO-Strike-Imminent-May-5-2022-final-004.pdf>

<https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2022/05/another-15000-construction-tradespeople-walk-job-ontario>