

PSAC 901

To our comrades and fellow labourers,

We at PSAC 901 were greatly inspired by the events that transpired just over one month ago, when over 150,000 PSAC Treasury Board and Canada Revenue Agency PSAC workers across Canada participated in an historic, 10-day strike, the largest single strike in the nation's history. In a time of unprecedented inflation to the prices of basic necessities, these workers asked for a fair wage for a job done. The federal government refused to meet these modest demands during bargaining and negotiations preceding the strike and, we feel, they continue to do so with the current tentative agreement. To be clear: to accept a 3% annual wage hike in the midst of as much as 7% annual inflation of costs is to accept a wage cut. Nor are we alone in this sentiment, as the CEIU National Executive expressed in their May 3rd letter to their members urging them to reject this agreement.

The tentative agreement, as it now stands, also ignores the just demand of protections for remote work. Protection for remote work provides innumerable benefits, including, but not limited to:

- Promoting an accessible workplace for those with limited mobility
- Reduction of carbon emissions and reclaiming unpaid time spent commuting
- Accommodating workers with young children who cannot afford childcare during working hours

While we do not have all of the facts, we must express our disappointment in the negotiations that took place on behalf of these workers. This agreement is a slap in the face, and to accept it on the heels of such historic action would be a symbolic defeat. Let us not forget the power we hold as workers in rightfully withholding our labor when we are not fairly compensated for it.

Always remember that our struggle as workers is mutual and that our victories are shared. When we bargain and win, we set the tone for other unions to ask for as much or more than we did. Likewise, when we concede we make it that much harder for our comrades, our children, and our future selves to get a fair deal. We know that you have had a long and difficult fight, but we urge you to continue standing united. Know that PSAC 901 stands with you and supports your just demands.

In solidarity,
PSAC 901