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KINGSTON AND THE ISLANDS NDP

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The Kingston and the Islands New Democratic Party (KNDP) Electoral District Association (EDA) stands in steadfast solidarity with PSAC 901 postdoctoral scholars in their fight for fair treatment, basic protections, and respect from Queen's University. Postdoctoral researchers are foundational to Queen's success, driving research, attracting grant funding, and contributing immensely to the university's academic standing. Yet, they are subject to precarious working conditions, inadequate wages, and, now, the looming threat of a lockout due to Queen's refusal to engage in fair and reasonable negotiations.

The Kingston NDP condemns Queen's University's decision to cancel the Queen's Health Team Pilot Project on the very first day of bargaining, stripping away critical healthcare support for postdocs. This action, coupled with an offer that does not meaningfully address the basic needs of these scholars, shows a callous disregard for the well-being of postdocs, who are often underpaid and overburdened. Many of these scholars have relocated—sometimes internationally—to make Kingston their home, only to find that Queen's, the largest employer in the area, is unwilling to invest in their financial stability, health, and basic protections.

As advocates for fair labor practices and the right to dignified work, the Kingston NDP EDA demands that Queen's University commit to fair bargaining and address the pressing needs of PSAC 901's postdoctoral members. The current climate of austerity measures and corporate-style management runs counter to Queen's reputation as an institution of higher learning committed to its community. Universities, especially those that rely heavily on public funds and donations, have a responsibility to value and support their workforce.

A potential lockout would set a dangerous precedent, threatening not only the livelihoods of postdocs but also the broader community's faith in Queen's University's leadership and integrity. We stand firmly with PSAC 901 and all academic workers who call for a fair contract that recognizes the essential contributions of postdocs to our society. The Kingston NDP EDA will continue to stand alongside PSAC 901 in their fight and urges Queen's administration to step up, fulfill its responsibilities, and respect the rights and dignity of its postdoctoral researchers.



Labour Chair, Kingston New Democratic Party (KNDP)
On behalf of the KNDP Executive