



**CUPE LOCAL 2278
UBC'S TEACHING ASSISTANT, MARKER AND
ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE UNION
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA**

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On behalf of the members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2278 serving Teaching Assistants, Markers and English Language Instructors at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, I am writing to express my concern over the slow progress in bargaining of our comrades in the Teaching Support Staff Union at Simon Fraser University. After 15 months without a contract, it is more than time for SFU to get to the table with the TSSU and negotiate openly and with a renewed will to strike a deal for the TAs, Tutors, Language Instructors and Sessionals at SFU.

The issues brought forward by the TSSU include common sense adjustments to ensure that their employer is operating in accordance with BC labour law under the Employment Standards Act, particularly in ensuring workplace safety language meets the guidelines for new and young workers. New and young workers are at statistically higher levels of risk of injury on the job and given the lower average age and high turnover of the academic workers our locals serve, these precautions provide vitally important mechanisms to keep our members safe.

Job security for Sessional Instructors is another core issue that ensures faculty hired in precarious positions have some measure of stability in their lives and can reasonably rely on employment term to term instead of constantly reapplying for their jobs multiple times throughout the year.

TSSU is seeking to increase job opportunities for graduate students at SFU. Access to work within the university system is a vital part of the funding packages for many graduate students and access to work is a key piece in ensuring more people have the economic means to allow them to pursue post secondary education. Too many workers the world over are forced to work through illness in order to keep up with tuition payments, housing, and the basic necessities of life. This has to change and it begins at the bargaining table.

We urge SFU to deal fairly and forthrightly with the TSSU at the bargaining table and to make bargaining dates available at their earliest possible opportunity. It is time to see an end to this round of negotiations and a new and improved contract for our colleagues at Simon Fraser University.

In Solidarity,

Trish Everett-Kabut

President, CUPE 2278