June Bargaining Update

Dear Residence Dons,

We hope that you are enjoying the warm weather and getting out more now that Ontario is in Stage 1 of reopening. There has been a big turnover in Residence Dons since your bargaining committee sent its last update on collective bargaining. Some dons have finished their terms and moved on, others are donning for the summer and more have been hired or are returning for the upcoming year.

Residence Dons at UC, New, Woodsworth and Innis voted last year to unionize, joining USW Local 1998 which represents over 8000 other workers at U of T. Since then, Dons at 89 Chestnut have also voted to join the union and Dons at Grad House have also just filed an application with the Labour Board to join the union. There is strength in numbers! The bigger the Dons unit, the more power you have to pressure the university to respect you and your work.

We’d like to update you on what’s been happening and give you a chance to get involved in our bargaining campaign to build power at the bargaining table. You can see past bargaining updates here: <https://www.usw1998.ca/residence-dons-bargaining/>

Your bargaining committee is Khaleel Grant, Stephanie Kroone, Ben Swadron and Sterlin Vaillancourt, and we were elected last year. None of us could have predicted that the pandemic would create such a delay in bargaining our first contract. However, we have begun regularly meeting with the University and starting to bargain key issues based on Residence Dons’ input from our surveys and town halls. They are:

* **Compensation and reimbursement**

This encompasses concerns regarding how people are compensated, reimbursed, and any administrative issues related to them including payment/reimbursement on time, unexplained deductions, and fairness in compensation.

* **Transparency and fairness**

This is meant to address concerns around equity and access in the workplace, clear job expectations and consistency across positions and divisions, as well as clarity and fairness in the hiring process.

* **Health and safety**

This concerns Dons’ wellness in the workplace, access to necessary supports, and what Dons need to feel safe and secure in performing their tasks and duties.

We’d like to invite you to a Bargaining Update Zoom meeting on June 22 at 7:00PM

<https://zoom.us/j/98409878263?pwd=cUMxTm5DN1lCNUN0WTVkOFB1S1U0QT09>

Meeting ID: 984 0987 8263

Passcode: 196207

1 647 374 4685

+1 647 558 0588

Find your local number:<https://zoom.us/u/acv1D0GDr0>

All summer Dons and 2021-2022 academic year Dons are welcome to attend. We don’t have a complete list from the University of all of the Dons for next year, so please forward this message to any dons you know.

We’ll give you an update on what’s happening at the bargaining table and we can all brainstorm on ways that you can get involved in our bargaining campaign and keep the pressure on the University to bargain a strong contract for the Dons.

Khaleel Grant

Stephanie Kroone

Ben Swadron

Sterlin Vaillancourt