



CAAT-A

COLLEGES
ACADEMIC
DIVISION



CAAT Academic Local Presidents and members:

The Colleges have been circulating a tale that the Union bargaining team is refusing to sign the Collective Agreement. It is not true.

The Colleges have filed a complaint with the Ontario Labour Relations Board that the Union will not sign the contract. That charge has not been proven before the Board. The Union is filing a counter claim that it is in fact the Colleges that are delaying conclusion.

Here are the facts.

The Colleges drafted a version of the new Collective Agreement which omits much of the content of the offer which was voted on and accepted by the bargaining unit members on February 10, 2010. They are insisting that the Union sign that document as the new Collective Agreement, minus the explanatory, descriptive language that was accepted by majority vote.

In a submission to the Labour Board on February 3, 2010 the Colleges' lawyer described the deleted sections as "the explanations that form part of the offer".

The Union is all ready to sign the new contract but cannot sign a contract that leaves out items accepted by the membership.

To clear up any confusion, the Union provided the Colleges with a true copy of the revised Collective Agreement with all parts of the accepted offer incorporated within. The Colleges refused to sign.

The Union is also prepared to revise the format of the new Collective Agreement, but is not willing to violate the wishes of the membership vote by leaving out components of the accepted offer.

Section 17(2) of the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act references a vote "to accept or reject the offer of the Council last received by the employee organization in respect of all matters remaining in dispute between the parties to the collective agreement." That vote was held on February 10, 2010 and counted officially on February 24th. The offer in its entirety was accepted. That is what the Union will sign and has repeatedly offered to do.

The Union is continuing to try to resolve this matter and is hopeful that the employer will honour the majority vote in good faith and sign the revised Collective Agreement immediately.

Ted Montgomery, on behalf of the team