



MEDIA RELEASE

USW LOCAL 1-1937 INVITATION TO BARGAIN WITH STRATHCONA REGIONAL DISTRICT- REJECTED BY SRD AGAIN

November 18, 2021

On November 15th the USW Local 1-1937 wrote again to the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) to invite them to participate in meaningful collective bargaining.

Again, the Strathcona Regional District negotiator has responded back with the same response, that they feel the below the cost of living increases they offered were reasonable.

The USW members who work in the facility voted down the tentative agreement in August, and after listening to the USW membership's issues, it was determined that the areas of concern were the employers desire to delete the term "Mutual Agreement" from some employee shifting language, and they had significant concerns over the rising cost of living, for rental housing, the price of groceries, and fuel costs.

Our membership is aware the employer is paying substantially higher wages for the same job in a different facility and that the finances of the Strathcona Regional District, which is sitting in a Surplus position, (found here in finances <https://srd.ca/government/finance/financial-reporting/>) were healthy enough for management staff to award themselves with wage increases far above the cost of living...crew members have found these inequities unacceptable.

Shelley Siemens, Business Agent, and spokesperson for the Union stated, *"It is unfortunate that because the Strathcona Regional District will not be reasonable and come back to the bargaining table, that the tough decision was made that the USW Members who work at the Strathcona Gardens Recreational Complex will be taking full job action starting Monday, November 22nd, and will continue to do so until which time the Strathcona Regional District comes back to the table to negotiate a contract that is fair and equitable for their employees."*

The Union is now calling on the employer to return to the bargaining table to realistically address our member's concerns and avoid the need for strike action on Monday.

We would also like to take this time to say thank you to the many facility groups and patrons who have sent us messages of support.

Our members do not want to be inconveniencing the public, they want to continue to serve the public even though they are on the front lines of the pandemic like most public-facing servants. Their employer needs to recognize the inequities in their contract and get back to the bargaining table and work to solve this impasse.

To contact the Strathcona Regional District Board of Directors you can click on the below link, or cut and paste the link into your browser to email the Board of Directors and ask them to tell the SRD negotiators to come back to the table.

[Strathcona Regional District | Board of Directors - Strathcona Regional District \(srd.ca\)](https://srd.ca/government/finance/financial-reporting/)

For further information please contact:

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