



What is *The Striking Partisan*?

The Striking Partisan was originally initiated in 2015 by members of the Revolutionary Student Movement (RSM) and supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Canada (PCR-RCP) who were involved in the strikes at both York University and the University of Toronto at that time. The idea was to create a small news leaflet that would represent the militant lines of that strike. Eventually the Striking Partisan led to the creation of the Joint Strike Committee (JSC), a body comprised of militant rank-and-file members of both CUPE 3903 and 3902 who met frequently to share tactics and think of joint strategy. The Striking Partisan then became the organ of the JSC, and the JSC's most successful intervention was organizing the 10 km March from York University to the University of Toronto in which thousands of rank and file members participated. Those of us who participated in the JSC in 2015 feel that it is useful to revive the Striking Partisan.

We Need to Prepare to Defy Back-to-Work Legislation

It's no secret that York refuses to bargain in good faith (or at all). What may be more puzzling is York's strategy in doing this.

Looking at the largest and most significant strikes in Canada over the past 10 years, many of them have been ended through back-to-work legislation. Most recently, also in the education sector, college professors in Ontario were legislated back to work after only a month on strike.

The threat of back-to-work legislation has surely not gone unnoticed by bosses. Instead of negotiating fairly, bosses can simply wait for the government to step in on their side, declare the strike illegal, and mandate binding arbitration. Bosses have no reason to negotiate, especially in sectors like education.

As workers, our power comes from our ability to withhold our labour and shut production down. Through back-to-work legislation, the government seeks to rob of us this power, thus forcing us to accept ever worse working conditions. If nobody will fight back against back-to-work legislation, strikes become ineffective and the working class becomes powerless.

As CUPE 3903, we constantly push the tactical envelope in the Canadian labour movement. This is why *The Striking Partisan* is calling for CUPE 3903 members to defy back-to-work legislation if it is passed. We need to begin having these conversations on our picket lines in order to prepare ourselves for a wildcat strike.

No back-to-work legislation!

No contracts, no classes!

Strike to win!

Senate Debacle Shows Lenton Admin has No Love for Democracy



On March 8, York's senate held a special meeting in order to determine whether or not classes would remain open. Or at least that's what should have happened. Instead of voting on whether or not classes would run during our strike - a power that only the Senate has - the Senate executive (composed of the same upper administration we've been trying to negotiate with), deemed the motion "premature due to lack of jurisdictional consideration." After a lengthy debate, which non-Senators were excluded from witnessing, the Senate voted 54-53 to defer the motion to some date in the future.

Following the meeting, a gathering of union supporters and undergrads voted to occupy the area around the Senate chambers, in order to force the Senators to vote on the motion. Unfortunately our supporters lacked the numbers to keep the occupation going.

The Lenton administration has shown that not only do they have no respect for the workers that make York run and pay their exorbitant salaries, but they also have no respect for the democratic process.

This shameful display by the York administration further shows that we can rely only on our power as workers to win this strike.

Strong Picket Lines Mean a Strong Strike!



As workers at York, our power comes from withholding our labour and the ability shut York down. Yet, despite the fact that those who do 60% of undergrad teaching at York are on strike, the York administration wants us to believe that it's "business as usual" on campus.

The best way to ensure that York comes to the bargaining table is to make sure that it isn't "business as usual" on campus. And the way we do that is by strengthening our picket lines.

What do strong picket lines mean? Strong picket lines means that it's impossible for students to get to classes held by scab professors. Strong picket lines mean that mail and other deliveries aren't dropped off in good time. Strong picket lines mean that York staff aren't able to perform their tasks properly. In short, strong picket lines mean that York doesn't function unless we want it to.

On the lines we've heard many conversations about how we should act towards people crossing our picket lines. Some striking comrades have suggested that we should only hold people at the lines for a bare minimum amount of time so as to not inconvenience them and to build support.

We disagree with this perspective.

A strike is inconvenient for everyone, but the strike is not our fault: we have been forced into this position by York. If we allow our lines to leak, we lose what leverage we have over the administration, and we lose the ability to force the administration to bargain. Strikes are not won by building support, but rather strikes are won by exercising our power as workers over the production process.

Instead of letting people through our lines quicker, we need to hold them up longer.

Instead of allowing leaks in our lines (bus routes, the subway, etc.) to exist, we need to make our lines impenetrable.

It is only through strong picket lines, through shutting York down, that we force York to the bargaining table and end this strike.

We'll Go All The Way

Music and Lyrics by Tyler Shipley, originally written for the 2008/2009 strike

I'm standing on the picket line, my hands are cold and blue
My will is strong cos you're with me and comrades I'm with you
We march and sing cos poverty just ain't no way to live
And so we raise our hands and say that we'll not stand for this

And we'll go all the way
We'll go all the way
We'll go all the way
We'll go all the way

We've done our work most happily, paid bills we can't afford
But still old Lenton comes to us, demanding more and more
Nobody wants a strike it's true but this is what we've found
See they have forced us into this, but we will not back down

And we'll go all the way...

I never knew the power that I held inside my palm
Until I joined the union and we marched each day at dawn
Cos joined at hands we're stronger than I ever thought we'd be
Be wary, O Employer, of thirty-nine-o-three

LAPS Faculty Council Urges Senate to Cancel Classes

On Monday, March 12, the Liberal Arts and Professional Studies faculty council passed a motion urging the senate to suspend all classes for the duration of our strike.

The motion reads: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies take the decision to call upon the Senate to suspend all classes within LAPS for the duration of the CUPE 3903 strike with immediate effect."

While the faculty council does not have the authority to cancel classes, this motion further proof of the broad support for our strike and the increasing pressure on the Lenton administration to negotiate. And if the senate won't cancel classes, maybe we should cancel them ourselves...

List of Programs that have Suspended Classes

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| -Social Science | -School of Translation (Glendon) |
| -Sociology | -Politics (Glendon) |
| -Politics | -Cinema and Media Arts |
| -Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies | -Equity Studies |
| | -Communication Studies |
| | -Anthropology |

Hardly business as usual!