

1. StFXAUT FAQ: Preparing for a strike

The AUT executive remains confident that the negotiating team will reach a settlement with the employer at the table, whether in conciliation or afterwards. However, there is a possibility that members will need to undertake job action, and it is necessary to consider what it will mean to be on strike.

There are several actions that can be taken in advance to prepare for a strike.

- Move copies of crucial working documents, files, print, and other moveable material off campus to your home. We do not know whether or not the Administration will deny access to email and campus servers but it is best to be prepared.
- Provide StFXAUT with alternative email addresses and contact information. Send your contact information to stfxaut@gmail.com. During a strike the StFXAUT will not use the StFX email system to communicate with members. The <http://stfxaut.ca> website will be the key method of communication.

You will need to login to view the confidential communications. If you do not know your username, contact Avon Brophy (abrophy@stfx.ca) or email stfxaut@gmail.com for assistance. If you have forgotten your password you can reset it by entering your username with no password and then clicking on “Lost your password?” in the message near the top of the browser.

- Speak to your research assistants and graduate students about their roles and your expectations during a strike. Unless they are also members of the StFXAUT, we do not see any reason why they can't continue to work and be paid. However, we do not know what the Administration will do.
- Review your financial situation in light of the possibility of a few days without pay and, perhaps a longer period with a lower level of income during the strike. Many banks, mortgage and credit card companies are understanding and will defer payment on bills for a short time. StFXAUT Strike Committee will endeavor to meet with the leading financial institutions in town to make arrangements for individuals to defer payments. Appropriate information will be posted on the website, along with example letters for those who deal with financial institutions further afield.
- If, during a strike, access to a lab or research facility is necessary to protect the integrity of lab-based research and scholarly activity you will need to submit an access request to the Strike Support Committee.
- Check that there are enough lab supplies to last through a strike and order supplies, if necessary. You will not be able to order supplies during a strike.
- If you have expense claims for reimbursement, submit them in a timely manner in order to be reimbursed prior to any stoppage of wages.