

4. FAQ: How does the strike work?

How long are the strike duty shifts; how much am I expected to do?

Strike duty is 3 hours each day, Monday to Friday, for a weekly total of 15 hours. We ask those on strike duty to assemble at the Strike Headquarters 30 minutes before their 2.5 shift, whether for picket duty or support duty. The Strike Support Committee and picket coordinators will work out the details of picket shifts. We will survey members and communicate detailed information to members prior to a strike.

I am physically unable to picket, can I do something else?

We urge all able-bodied members to serve picket duty, but for those physically unable to do so, there are a variety of roles that are necessary during a strike, such as running the strike headquarters, transporting picketers and materials to the picket sites, feeding picketers, writing leaflets, communications and media relations, participating in flying pickets, and serving on the Strike Support Committee and its subcommittees. The executive encourages its members to get involved in ways that are best suited to the abilities of members and the needs of the strike.

If I am filling in for someone on sabbatical am I expected to picket?

As a member of the StFXAUT you are expected to picket. In order to receive strike pay you are expected to perform strike duty.

Can I double up on picket or support shifts, and do two in one day, if I don't have child care or face other extenuating circumstances?

Yes, we will be able to accommodate your child care schedule and other personal circumstances, such as members who must travel long distances to campus.

May I teach a class off-campus, or instruct assistants to perform my duties in my absence?

The point of a strike is to withhold our labour. Such activities would be considered to be strikebreaking. Moving your teaching, administrative and supervisory duties to another location, or arranging for others to perform your duties are the same as crossing a picket line to do such work yourself. Members who do so are not on strike because they are not withholding their labour. They would be ineligible for strike pay, and would be actively undermining the efforts of their striking colleagues.

May I instruct library support staff to perform my duties in my absence?

No. The point of strike is the withholding of labour. Such activities are considered strikebreaking.

I have children to drop off at campus. How can I do this without crossing a picket line?

To facilitate legitimate reasons for crossing the picket-lines, we will arrange for a strike pass issued by the Strike Support Committee, to allow members to enter the campus for a specified reason. It is important to note that this is separate and distinct from crossing a picket line to teach a class or lab, or to meet with students; these are part of the labour that will be withheld in the event of a strike or lock-out.