

# BARGAINING BULLETIN



This is the first Bargaining Bulletin of the 2012 contract negotiations. The StFXAUT Negotiating Team and Executive will use this newsletter to communicate with our members until the completion of our Third Collective Agreement.

As we enter these negotiations, we recognize our role is to strengthen the academic mission of StFX. At stake is nothing less than the quality of the university education that we are able to offer our students. Collective bargaining is the process by which we can stand together in support of working conditions that are essential to our capacity to achieve excellence in our scholarly endeavours. We are committed to seeking improvements to our Collective Agreement as a means to an end of maintaining our reputational quality and capacity to serve the public.

The StFXAUT negotiating team consists of Dr. Brad Long (Associate Professor, Business Administration), Ms. Sherry Bowman (Clinical Associate, Nursing) and Mr. Bruce Sparks (Part-time Instructor, Art History). Since filing our notice of intent to

negotiate on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and to our disappointment, the University has yet to name their negotiating team. Of course no meetings can take place until this happens.

For several months, the StFXAUT Executive has been asking for and listening to the interests of our members and has forwarded to the Negotiating Team a list of potential bargaining priorities. More recently, a questionnaire was distributed to all members to both confirm the scope of existing priorities and receive additional feedback. Our efforts now are focused on turning these priorities into proposals to be tabled during negotiations. This involves research, discussions with various affected parties, and the critically important engagement of members in various supporting committees. We are committed to supporting proposals that reflect the real priorities of all of our members in a manner that is inclusive, honest and reasonable.

Have you responded to the questionnaire? We are guided by the principle of being member driven, so your voice is important to us. This questionnaire remains

## Did you know?

We do not receive the value of benefits that the University pays into our benefits plan, and an unspent surplus accumulates each year. The University withdrew \$500,000 from our benefits plan in order to offset their 2011-12 operating expenses. All of this happens without any consultation with the StFXAUT.

There are over 30 positions within the University administration with salaries in excess of the ceiling of the Assistant Professor rank (according to data provided by ANSUT).

All four unions at StFX will have their collective agreements expire between June 30<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

available to all our members on the StFXAUT website. All responses are collected in confidence. Of course, you are welcome to contact any member of the Executive or Negotiating Team as we proceed through negotiations.

Finally, we wish to add our voices to the chorus of support extended to President Riley with our best wishes for a quick return to good health.

**Stay tuned:** The next Bargaining Bulletin will contain some preliminary feedback from the questionnaire and departmental consultations, along with any updates we are able to offer regarding the status of negotiations.