

# An important message about City of White Rock services from your public workers

April 2014

## To White Rock residents and businesses:

We are writing to you on behalf of the City of White Rock's unionized employees.

We are proud of our community. We don't just work here; many of us are your family, friends and neighbours. As members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 402-01 we represent workers who collect your garbage and recycling, keep community centres and recreation facilities running, make sure your streets are clean and safe, facilitate business services, and much more.

We have been in contract negotiations with the City for almost a year and despite two attempts at mediation through the Labour Relations Board, talks have stalled. We are left with the difficult decision to withdraw our services to pressure the White Rock Mayor and Council to return to the bargaining table for a fair settlement.

Like you, we know White Rock is a special place in a special region. However, we have fallen behind city workers in other Lower Mainland communities.

We went to the bargaining table for a respectful and fair contract, in line with others in our region, where settlements have been reached without any disruption of services to the public.

It comes down to respect. White Rock employees should be treated fairly, with clearly defined hours of work, improved treatment for casual and part-time employees, and protection for workers who become seriously ill.

CUPE members in White Rock who get seriously ill can end up with no way to support themselves and their families – when they need it the most. Like everyone, we want to protect ourselves and our families, but the City won't agree to let us have a disability plan – even one we pay for ourselves. Yet city managers have a long-term disability plan that is fully paid by White Rock taxpayers.

We need to improve conditions for part-time and casual workers. Too often, longer-term employees are denied job security. As casual workers, they have little or no stability. And the compensation they receive in place of health benefits is well below workers in other Lower Mainland communities. White Rock needs to treat its workers fairly instead of trying to make them even less secure.

**Please see other side...**

The majority of our members do not have clear hours of work. We are seeking what all employees need and have a right to – certainty about what hours we will be required to work, as we attempt to balance work and family responsibilities.

We have gone to the bargaining table in good faith, ready to negotiate a fair and realistic collective agreement. The Mayor and Council appear unwilling to take the same cooperative, flexible approach. We have been pressured to consider job action by the City's lack of willingness to negotiate.

We want to settle a new collective agreement so that we can focus on keeping White Rock one of the best places to live in B.C.

The last thing that we want to do is to disrupt lives and businesses. Taking job action is our last resort. We have tried every other means to protect and improve our working conditions, but the City has been unwilling to work with the union on our key bargaining issues. We need fairness and respect.

While we will continue to press the City of White Rock to work with us, we ask you to get in touch with our Mayor and Council to let them know that you expect them to treat workers fairly. You can email them at [whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca](mailto:whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca) and please feel free to copy us at [whiterockcityworkers@gmail.com](mailto:whiterockcityworkers@gmail.com).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you would like more information please check our website at [www.402-01.cupe.ca](http://www.402-01.cupe.ca) or call 604-992-0381.



Sincerely,  
Mike Guraliuk  
President, White Rock Employees  
CUPE 402-01

## Here's how you can help:

**While we press the City of White Rock to work with us on a fair contract, please let our elected officials know they should treat workers fairly. You can email them at: [whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca](mailto:whiterockcouncil@whiterockcity.ca) and please feel free to copy us at [whiterockcityworkers@gmail.com](mailto:whiterockcityworkers@gmail.com)**