

An update from your Students' Association regarding the collective agreement negotiations

Good afternoon students,

I am writing on behalf of your Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) to update you on the recent Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations. As students ourselves, we understand that not only can this process be confusing, but it can also be worrisome. That is why we are committed to informing and educating all students about the collective agreement negotiation process, with regular updates.

Most recent update on collective bargaining:

- The conciliator has filed a report to the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education on January 7th, indicating that the parties are unable to come to an agreement. This means we are currently in the two weeks 'cooling off' period after which labor action could be called.

What happens now?

- The 14-day cooling off period began on Tuesday, January 7th
- During this cooling off period, no labour action can take place
- The two parties can continue to meet and negotiate in order to reach a collective bargaining agreement. SMUSA has been informed that a meeting between the two parties will be held on Tuesday, January 15th.

What is SMUSA doing?

- Our priority remains to ensure that students stay in class, and so we believe it is in all of our best interests to stand as a neutral stakeholder in these negotiations. This allows us to be in constant communication with both parties, and to do everything in our power to ensure that the student voice is heard.
- We remain optimistic that students will not be negatively impacted by these negotiations since at no time in the history of Saint Mary's University have students ever lost a semester due to failed collective bargaining. However, we are preparing for all possibilities.
- We will continue to answer any questions or concerns you may have, and bring them to the attention of both parties.

Although you may hear information and speculation about the likelihood of a strike, continue to go to class and continue with your work. We will send a follow-up email on January 15th or 16th to update you about the outcome of the upcoming meeting.

If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at president.smusa@smu.ca. To stay up-to-date with our take on events related to the negotiations, visit the [SMUSA site](#).

I hope you all had a great start to the new year!

Ossama Nasrallah

President, Saint Mary's University Students' Association