

Strikers settle with Halton Region

Halton Region's environmental services workers are heading back to work. Thursday evening members of CUPE Local 2620, who have been on strike for two weeks, voted 78 per cent in favor of an offer from the region.

The three-year agreement, from January 1997 to December 1999, will see wages of the 113 employees, many of them water and wastewater

workers, increase by 34 cents an hour in each year of the contract and retroactive pay back to January 1, 1997. That's a 2 per cent increase for each year of the contract. Other issues settled included benefits and job security.

Halton Region Chief Administrative Officer Barry Malmsten said some of the workers would be back to work Friday, others on the weekend and the rest will be back on

Monday.

"Throughout the strike the public support was overwhelming," said Gerry Dean CUPE Local 2620 president. He said the membership "greatly appreciated it."

"This was the fair settlement council was striving for," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline. "This is not only fair to the workers, but fair to the residents of Halton."

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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