

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



New collective agreement reached

University operations slowly return to normal with end of strike by WLUSA members

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University and the WLU Staff Association have ratified the tentative agreement reached early Monday morning. The ratification brings to an end a seven-week strike by Staff Association members, and comes after lengthy and often difficult negotiations dating back to early summer.

“These have been challenging weeks for the university,” president Bob Rosehart said, “particularly for our students and for WLUSA staff. We’re grateful to our students for the patience they’ve shown, and we’re pleased to be able to welcome our WLUSA friends and colleagues back to work.”

Rosehart said the university recognizes there will be a period of readjustment before things return to normal, but “the fact that Laurier is a unique community with a lot of passion will help the healing process.”

“Members of the Laurier community care a great deal about this campus and maintaining our special sense of community is important to all of us,” he said. “We also have a lot of exciting things to focus on right now ... preparations for the double cohort, construction of the new teaching building, science research centre, and residence.”

Rosehart said the agreement reflects compromise by both parties, and that it benefits from having been fashioned by the parties themselves. Highlights of the agreement are as follows:

- A three percent salary increase in each year of the three-year agreement;
- Improved vacation;
- Adjustment to salary for members who have been at the maximum on the salary scale for a period of time;

- Addition of Heritage Day;
- Spousal tuition benefits for part-time WLUSA members;
- Changes to the contracting out provisions to permit contracting out without requiring union permission coupled with an employment guarantee for any WLUSA member whose position may be affected;
- Creation of a time line for grievances that will ensure they are dealt with in a timely fashion;
- Letters of Understanding on personal harassment, and on WLUSA staffing levels.

Some WLUSA staff returned to work on Tuesday, with all employees expected to be back on the job no later than Thursday.