

Higgs press conference (corrected) Friday November 5 fact vs. fiction

What the government said

“There was no alternative to this emergency mandatory order” - Flemming

“This has nothing to do with labour relations”- Flemming

We met with CUPE representatives for 9 hours yesterday - Higgs

There was an agreement last night - Higgs

CUPE said we don't accept the offer and no one's coming back to work either - Higgs

CUPE has changed the financial package because they no longer see it as good enough. - Higgs

We set the pension aside - Higgs

THE REALITY

Higgs could have negotiated a deal that pays CUPE healthcare and supply chain workers a fair wage for the incredibly valuable work they do.

The emergency order strips these workers of their right to free collective bargaining and their right to strike. Government is holding a thumb on the scale with this order.

Face-to-face conversations lasted a couple of hours. The CUPE delegation was left alone in a separate room for several hours.

There was NO agreement made last night. The government presented an offer. CUPE's delegation said we would take it back to the centralized bargaining team. There was no promise to recommend the offer.

CUPE presented a counteroffer that - if Higgs accepts - would have all striking and locked out workers immediately back to work.

CUPE's counteroffer includes an additional \$0.25/hour in years 4 and 5 to compensate for withdrawing all outstanding items from the local tables, many of which are monetary items.

Centralized bargaining was always about wages and nothing else. Higgs continues to obsess over pension concession for education workers. Higgs is holding up negotiations by targeting 2 of 10 CUPE locals. Higgs rejected CUPE's proposal to take pensions off this table.



BARGAINING FORWARD