



September 11, 2024

**To:** All CUPE Local Union Presidents in Ontario

**From:** CUPE Local 2361

**URGENT REQUEST: The stakes are high for all of us – your support makes a difference**

Dear CUPE Local Union Presidents,

The 330 members of CUPE 2361 (caretakers, trades, arena workers, and landscape technicians) at Western University are on week 2 of a hard strike. Over 85% of our members are actively contributing to the strike, and *not a single member* has crossed the picket line. We need your support to keep spirits high. Please read on.

**1. Financial support**

Like most CUPE members, our members also live paycheque to paycheque. Please donate to our local strike fund to support members in need. Every financial donation, no matter the size, matters. It boosts our members' confidence as they walk the lines knowing we are not alone. It also demonstrates to Western that we are determined to win.

Please call an urgent executive meeting to pass a motion for strike financial support for CUPE 2361. If you have the means and a membership meeting coming up, you may be able to bring a motion for a larger donation for your members' approval.

- Please send your donation cheque to:

Attn: David Lee, CUPE National Representative for Local 2361  
101-350 Oxford Street West, London, ON N6H 1T3

- Please announce your financial support on social media once and tag us  
Instagram: @cupe2361  
Facebook.com/CUPE2361

**2. Support us by pressuring Western decision-makers**

Please send the following message to your members and your wider networks:

**Urgent call for support**

CUPE 2361 represents 330 caretakers, trades, arena workers, and landscape technicians. We have a lot in common with you. We work hard and are struggling to survive as living costs skyrocket. Hard working CUPE members like us help keep our

province moving every single day because we are on the frontlines maintaining the services that matter to people. Yet our lives are getting harder while public sector decision-makers such as Western University administrators are living their best lives making over \$300,000 dollars a year. We are fighting back for better wages and for higher quality services for our public. We all deserve better.

**You can make a difference right now with less than two minutes of your time.**

Please sign our community petition today and **please send it to anyone you know who has a connection to Western University and ask them to sign it as well.**

<https://cupe.ca/clean-safe-accessible-campus-students-and-staff>

## **Background**

In London, housing prices have gone up by 50% over the last five years. No matter where you live, you and your members are probably feeling the skyrocketing costs of living. More than 65% of CUPE 2361 members work more than one job to make ends meet. Our wages are simply too low. Your membership is likely in a similar boat.

Good jobs are disappearing not only, at Western University, but across our province. Workers' purchasing power has been pushed down. Campus services suffer as recruitment and retention goes down, and workload goes up.

We are part of an increasing wave of union-led collective action to fight back, and the outcome of our fight will affect your local union's negotiations in one way or another. When we stick together, we can all achieve improvements!



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