



August 13th, 2025

Letter to the Mayor and the City Councillors

Today is day 16 of local 830's strike. We're fighting for job security and fair wages.

One thing has been made clear to us: you have no respect for us, the City of Charlottetown water and sewer workers. Your lack of response to our letters and the tentative agreement offer sent to you on Monday is a slap in the face. Do you even want this strike to end?

Our team has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the city and its' residents. Throughout the years, we've missed time with our families, sacrificed holidays and major life events to work long hours, all to ensure Charlottetown never went without critical services. We will never get those moments back.

We have dedicated our lives and safety to this job.

During the last hurricane, some of us even slept at the City shop while our families worried for our safety. We weren't there for our own families, we were there for you. When we should have been home supporting them, but we were supporting our city. We feared the building might collapse around us, but we stayed to keep water and sewer services running for you. We're not required to go to these lengths, but we do it because we care. It is time you show us that you care about us.

We care and we're dedicated workers. We take our jobs seriously.

We have requested four times that a special meeting be called to discuss this matter in front of council. We want to have an open and honest conversation with you to explain our requests and answer any questions you may have. To these requests, we've received no responses. We are aware that you've already held 14 special meetings this year. Are we not worth your time?

We are seeking job security and fair wages.

The job security the city's bargaining team wants to strip from the agreement will disproportionately affect members with learning disabilities.

In terms of fair wages, we've been told that the city didn't budget these costs.

Need we remind you:

- The City entered into a purchase and sale agreement of **\$4.8 million** (resolution attached), without doing their due diligence, on land they *can't even use*, yet you won't support the very workers who deliver essential services to Charlottetown residents.
- Council has adopted hiring an external firm for **\$150,000** for the review of by-laws when paid city staff has the expertise to do that work, all while ignoring us, the people who keep this city running.
- A new position, Assistant Manager of Finance, as well as other management positions have been created, but paying our long-serving frontline workers a fair wage seems to be out of the question.
- From 2020 to 2024, the City and the Water and Sewer Corporation recorded four consecutive operational budget surpluses totaling over \$18 million. Let's remember, these surpluses are made on the backs of our workers.

The Union's proposal for a wage increase will only cost an additional \$26,440 per year more than the city's proposal.

We honestly question the decision-making of this council. Either the decisions you've been taking are not made with proper questioning or research, or the people advising you are not well informed and aren't providing you with wise advice. The information we've received about the council's power over the city's budget has been unclear to us. It is obvious that there is enough funding to cover this wage increase while still maintaining a healthy surplus.

We've been writing to you, our elected representatives, every day, multiple times a day, to stop this strike and we have been ignored. We even presented you with a turnkey tentative agreement to show you how close we are to a fair deal.

During the regular meeting of council on August 12th, Councillor Tweel suggested that the council meet the local to have an honest conversation and answer your questions. Give us a date. Meet with us and hear what we have to say.

We are worth your respect. We are not backing down. This strike is not going away. We will strike for as long as it takes until you give us the respect we've earned by our years of dedicated service.

Rob Howatt, on behalf of the members of CUPE Local 830.



CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

2025-COCR-0049

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION LOST

Finance, Audit,
Tendering &
Administration #1

Date: March 25, 2025

Moved by Councillor John MacAleer

Seconded by Councillor Terry Bernard

RESOLVED:

That the City of Charlottetown enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust to purchase the property known as Boulder Park (portion of PID# 340422) with the following terms and conditions:

1. Purchase Price of \$4.8 Million,
2. \$1,000,000 payment at the date of execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement (anticipated payment by March 31, 2025), and
3. An annual payment of \$380,000 per year for the next 10 years commencing in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

And that the Mayor and CAO are hereby authorized to execute standard contracts/agreements to implement this resolution.