

General Meeting – January 24, 2019

Meeting called to order at 4:02pm

Brother Fields read the motion in English. Brother LeBlanc read the motion in French.

Motion to cease the strike fund:

WHEREAS GSU Local 60018 members contribute at a rate of 5.00\$ per month to a Strike Fund to support members who participate in strikes; and

WHEREAS the fundamental concept of the Strike Fund is to assist with financial support for the members who participate in strikes, be it known that the Strike Fund reinforces our members' solidarity, but it can never replace it.

BE IT RESOLVED that GSU Local 60018 stops the 5.00\$ per month deduction to the Strike Fund and let the members manage their own Finances in the event of a Strike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the motion is passed, that the deductions will cease as soon as possible.

Brother Fields addressed the membership requesting that when they had a question or comment they raise their hand and stand to be recognized when they speak. This is to avoid confusion and over talking each other.

Brother Fields asked who moves for this motion: Darlene Boudreau, Seconder Serge Savoie.

Question from the floor: "Could the people for stopping the strike fund explain their reasoning?"

Response: "The issue is not the \$5, it's the lack of direction and information. How much is it? Does it just grow forever? Should an amount be set to stop it?"

Brother Fields explained there were strike fund recommendations that the membership voted to adopt in 2017 at the AGM. Brother Fields provided some copies to the membership in attendance.

Brother LeBlanc read recommendation #7: "When 10 days of strike time have been provided for by the accumulation of \$160,000 in the strike fund (approximately 4.1 years from the first deduction), consideration should be given to cancelling or decreasing deductions, and/or increasing the amount to be paid per day of strike."

From the floor: "where did these recommendations come from?"

Sister LeBlanc: "The recommendations were provided at the AGM 2017 and the membership voted to adopt them"

From the floor: "Information is hard to find on the website. I think that talking about the strike fund is going to have Treasury Board laughing at us."

From the floor: There seems to be a consensus to keep it but how much and for how long? We need to have strength when bargaining"

From the floor: "Historically we have rotating strikes- we get \$75 from PSAC National- with National and what we have now I think it's enough. It will be a nice top up-maybe a day and a half of strike historically and I don't see that changing."

From the floor: "Last negotiations there were letters for those is essential positions."

Sister Doucet: "The current National President said we are ready to strike and it would be a general strike. With the current PSAC National fund they only have enough to pay \$75 for the first 7 days."

From the floor: "This is the first I hear of this- has this been announced to the membership?"

Sister Doucet: "We no longer have a list of the essentials positions"

From the floor: "Because HR has a current complaint open no essential letters will be going out"

From the floor: "I was here for strike in 2000, it was for at least 4 or 5 days."

Sister Laplante: Explained the difference between rotational and general strike. The communication committee at the regional and national level make recommendations on the type of strike that would be most effective. On a rotational strike you get 60% of your gross pay. On a rotational 10% of the membership goes on strike, they have to decide where would be the most effective place to pull that 10% from. This may or may not be the pension centre, we won't know until it happens. The strike fund was established to help cover what the PSAC National can't cover. She explained the importance of rules and recommendations – as the local executive changes it's important to have in writing where the funds are going. When we have a strike vote it doesn't always mean we strike, but its good pressure. The strike fund gives piece of mind that you have a top up on top of what PSAC National pays.

From the floor: "If we were told there was an end date we wouldn't be sitting here."

From the floor: "A lot of us have kids, \$75 covers half of my day – that extra top up helps those living pay to pay."

From the floor: "Three meetings ago I asked and was told some members can't manage their own affairs – I can't take that \$5 for myself – no diminishing the union – but if this (strike fund recommendations) had been at last meeting it would have answered a lot of questions. Will it change my vote either way, I don't know. Let's address it now- define what we're going to do now."

Brother Fields: "An independent committee created those recommendations."

From the floor: "I wasn't at the last meeting – but I was at the strike vote meeting and full room of members- obviously it was in favour – a lot do live pay to pay – why not take advantage of the extra top up. At the meeting it was said we would revisit it."

From the floor: "How much is in the fund?"

Brother Barclay: "As of December 31, 2018 a total of \$80,144.79, of that \$1,106.02 is interest accumulated."

Brother Fields: "A yes motion was requested and has been posted for 30 days."

Sister Laplante: "You cannot modify the intent of the motion. We cannot decide what to do know when you reach \$160,000.00. Will need to have another meeting."

From the floor: "\$60 per year – in my pocket isn't going to help much – we have a lot of younger workers who will most likely see a strike by the end of their career, this will be nice to have for them."

Brother LeBlanc: "I'm still fairly new to the Pension Centre, but I've been with PSAC for 20 years. At the AGM when this was brought up a lot of what ifs came to mind. We need to prepare for what ifs. With Parks Canada I sat on 3 bargaining teams – was in 3 rotating strikes for 5 days. We had a strike fund- even with the risk of losing our EI the people knew the importance of strike fund. If my \$5 can help someone else that would be great. The Treasury Board knows we're having this meeting and it looks bad. Bargaining is not going well. I've sat in that room for weeks on end – employer couldn't do anything without a mandate. The strike fund is a great tool to have – local in Parks has over 2 million in the strike fund- this makes the employer question if they want to push us to a strike. I'm new here- but these recommendations are good compared to others. We have got to think about the what ifs. We could show up one day and be locked out."

From the floor: "How many employees? Close to 1000, the absence of people means support for the fund."

From the floor: "I disagree, half the people I talk to don't even know there's a fund."

From the floor: "If we had this 3 meetings ago we wouldn't be here."

Sister Doucet: "You said you didn't have it but in 2015 we voted to start the strike fund. Guidelines were not set then, a committee was created and the recommendations were voted on in 2017."

From the floor: "Communication needs to be stronger – not having information shouldn't ruin our strike funds. Lesson learned- add in a timelier manner."

Brother Fields: "We would love to have a volunteer to help with communications"

From the floor: "Rotational strike do I still get strike fund if I am getting the 60%."

Sister Laplante: "We don't use the top up as you are close enough to pay at 60%."

Brother Fields: "Can we vote now?"

Sister Laplante: "Read the motion, we have 4 polling stations. Once the vote is called you stand in line and write yes or no. We will count the votes then come back and advise."

From the floor: "Will the results be shared with everyone?"

Sister Doucet: "Yes, but on the board – can't use the employer's email."

From the floor: "Can you post it on the GSU site?"

Sister Doucet: "It can be added under the local."

Brother LeBlanc: Read the motion again.

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“To summarize if you want to keep the fund you write No and if you want to cancel the fund you write Yes.”

Voting took place at 4 polling stations.

Sister Laplante: “Last call, did everyone get a chance to vote?”

Votes were tallied.

Brother Fields: “The votes were counted and we have 89% in favour of keeping the strike fund. Can I get a motion to destroy the ballots?”

Motion from Mike LeBlanc

Seconded by Odette Babineau

All in favour. Ballots to be destroyed.

From the floor: “How many voted?”

Sister Laplante: “We had 18 votes.”

From the floor: “Is that enough for quorum?”

Brother Fields: “Yes”

Sister Laplante: “Thank you for coming- you can go back and share with your colleagues.”

Brother LeBlanc: “Can we get a motion to adjourn?”

Motion from Pierre

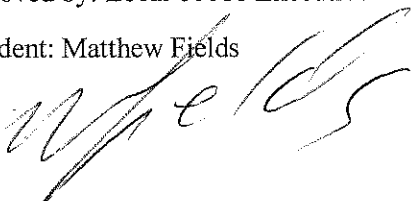
Seconded by Serge

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer LeBlanc – Secretary

Approved by: Local 60018 Executive

President: Matthew Fields

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Fields', is written over the printed name of the President.