

## Bargaining Update #17

**May 12, 2021**

The NASA Bargaining Team met with the employer on May 12, 2021. Future dates include May 14, 17, 26 and 28.

We have received and responded to those who have sent emails of support or had questions since our last update – THANK YOU!!

### **NASA's Position**

While NAIT argues that the Government cannot afford anything but wage roll-backs, Arbitrators usually give such claims by public entities little weight. As Arbitrator Sims noted, “**public sector employees should not be expected to subsidize a community by accepting substandard wages and working conditions**” (The University of Alberta and Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (unreported, 18 July 2000, Sims, QC), at p. 3 (unreported) (“University of Alberta”) citing Arbitrator Tettensor). In Springhill Police Association., Arbitrator Richardson similarly observed that a public body cannot be excused from paying fair wages because it chose to expend its financial resources in other ways (paras 22, 23).

NASA will continue to advocate for wage increases and relevant economic data supports our position.

- Alberta has shown a yearly inflation rate of 1.98%
- Alberta has shown an average salary increase of 9% since 2016 (<https://economicdashboard.alberta.ca/AverageWeeklyEarnings>)

### **Next Steps**

We will have more information available after NAIT responds to our proposals. Look for a more detailed update next week. Thank you for your patience as we continue this challenging process. We will continue to work collaboratively and in good faith as we continue negotiations,

As always, we encourage members with questions about the collective bargaining process to contact anyone on the bargaining team and we will be happy to talk to you either individually or in groups.

In solidarity,

**Jarret Serediak** ([jarrets@nait.ca](mailto:jarrets@nait.ca))

**Bernie Budinski** ([bernieb@nait.ca](mailto:bernieb@nait.ca))

**Katherine St. Laurent** ([katherines@nait.ca](mailto:katherines@nait.ca))

**Christine Loo** ([christinel@nait.ca](mailto:christinel@nait.ca))

**Peter Kamstra** ([pkamstra@nait.ca](mailto:pkamstra@nait.ca))

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AUPE was recently awarded a 1% retroactive increase. (Click [HERE](#) to read the award.)