

Conestoga Faculty & Staff  
Re: Support Staff Union Strike

A province-wide strike by Ontario college support staff is in effect as of 12:01 am, September 1.

All Conestoga campuses will remain open during this labour disruption. All day and evening classes will begin as scheduled on Tuesday, September 6, 2011. All faculty, administrators and non-full-time support staff will be expected to report for work as usual and students are expected to attend classes.

You will be required to cross a picket line when you come on campus. We encourage you to use courtesy and caution when crossing the picket line. For further information, please review [the picket line protocol](#).

Conestoga will do everything possible to ensure classroom activities are not interrupted and minimize disruptions to student services, given the constraints of the situation.

Updates will be posted on the main college website: [www.conestogac.on.ca](http://www.conestogac.on.ca). For further information, please see below.

### **General Q's & A's**

#### **Q1. What is this strike all about?**

A1. OPSEU, the union representing support staff at Ontario's 24 colleges, turned down a reasonable wage increase of 4.8% over three years. The union team continued to demand wages and benefits increases that are unaffordable for the colleges to provide. For more information, see [General Strike Information](#) on the Conestoga website.

#### **Q2. Will Conestoga campuses remain open during the strike?**

A2. Yes. All Conestoga College campuses will remain open, all academic programs will be running, and classes will start on September 6 as scheduled. Students will be expected to attend.

#### **Q3. How does the strike affect other Conestoga staff?**

A3. All faculty, administrators and non-full-time support staff are expected to report for work as usual.

#### **Q4. How will College services be affected by the strike?**

A4. Conestoga will do everything possible to ensure classroom activities are not interrupted and to minimize disruptions to student services. For up-to date information on the availability of College services click [here](#).

#### **Q5: Will students still be able to move into residence?**

A5: Yes. The residence continues to be open. Move-in and all other residence activities will continue as scheduled.

#### **Q6: Will food services be available during the work stoppage?**

A6: Yes. All food service operations will continue as scheduled.

**Q7: Will the bookstore be open during the work stoppage?**

A7: Yes. Bookstore operations will continue. For revised hours click [here](#).

**Q8: Will financial aid, including OSAP distribution, be available during the strike?**

A8: Yes. The Registrar's office, including financial aid will be open. For revised hours click [here](#).

**Q9: Will I be required to cross a picket line?**

A9: During the work stoppage, you can expect that picket lines will be set up at the entrances to all Conestoga campuses. For instructions on how to cross the picket line safely, please consult our [picket line protocol](#). Expect delays and allow extra time for crossing the picket line.

**Q10: How does the strike affect the community's access to Conestoga facilities such as child care centres and the recreation complex?**

Q10: The Child Care centres will be closed as a result of the work stoppage. The Recreation Centre and sports fields are also closed. The gymnasium is open for academic use only. For a full listing of services affected by the strike, please click [here](#).

**Q11. What should I do if I get approached or called by someone from the media?**

A11. All media inquiries should be directed to Brenda Cassidy, Corporate Communications Manager at 519-748-5220, ext. 3336. Do not offer any comments or information. Authorized spokespeople will handle media inquiries.

**Q12: Where can I get more information?**

A12: Visit the [Information Centre](#) on the Conestoga website at: for information and updates as the strike continues. The College has also set up an information line at 519-748-5220 ext 3151 where you can leave a message with your question and someone will get back to you.