



BWGPL Community Update – August 11, 2023

Dear Library Patron,

I am writing to provide an update on the ongoing strike action by CUPE 905 and the resulting closure of BWG Public Library. On behalf of the BWG Public Library (BWGPL) Board and Management staff, I extend a sincere apology to you for the inconvenience this strike and Library closure has caused. As we have shared in previous communications, we understand the important role our Library plays in our community, especially during this time of year, when local families depend on the BWGPL to keep busy and engaged over the summer holidays.

As we move into the fourth week of the strike, CUPE 905 (the union representing our library workers) has made it clear that they will not return to the bargaining table unless we meet their demands for an increase of \$1.35 per hour for the life of the contract. While this amount may seem nominal, salary increases are paid through property taxes by local residents and businesses. CUPE 905's wage increase would cause a 2.6 per cent increase in the library tax rate in year one and a 5.2 per cent increase over two years, directly affecting your property taxes.

As previously shared, the BWG Public Library offered an 11 per cent wage increase over four years. The union rejected this offer and has refused to come back to the bargaining table, ignoring dates established by the conciliator.

The past few weeks have not been easy for anyone involved, particularly those who rely on the services of the library. We value our employees who provide these important services through hard work and commitment to our community. We are ready to get back to the bargaining table and come to a mutually beneficial resolution so that we can reopen our doors to our community.

Please continue to visit our [labour relations page](#) for the latest information on the strike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Corbett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew Corbett, BWGPL CEO

