



City of Peterborough

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

SETTLEMENT WITH CUPE LOCAL 504 ACHIEVES CITY OBJECTIVES:

Mayor Ayotte, on behalf of Council, expressed his appreciation for CUPE Local 504's ratification of the tentative labour agreement with the City. "Negotiations can be challenging but a compromise was found." Mayor Ayotte continued, "The negotiated settlement is fair for all parties. In the face of an economy in serious trouble, the union has secured a reasonable wage adjustment. But Council has also sent a clear signal that the environment has changed. We have begun the difficult process of readjusting expectations. This is fair for the taxpayer."

Throughout the 2009 Budget deliberations currently in process, Council has been challenged to balance the demand for new tax dollars with the community's ability to pay. The current economic reality of the City is a reflection of global uncertainty and fiscal challenge. It is not an environment of "business as usual". Economic growth has stalled. Employment levels are in decline. There is a profound sense of restraint and caution. This is the current economic reality.

City Council, under these difficult economic circumstances, originally offered CUPE Local 504 a 1.5% wage increase for 2009 to recognize the contribution of its valued outside workers notwithstanding the present fiscal realities and uncertainty. On Thursday January 8, 2009 Council directed its negotiating team to pursue every opportunity to avoid a work stoppage and agreed to meet the union halfway by offering a 2.25% all-inclusive increase for a one-year contract covering 2009.

A marathon bargaining session began in the morning of January 9, 2009 and concluded with a tentative agreement in the early hours of Saturday January 10, 2009. CUPE Local 504 has accepted a 2.25% wage settlement. In return for some improvement in the union's benefit plan the City has secured additional scheduling flexibility and has eliminated the potential financial exposure associated with several unresolved labour relations issues. This settlement achieves Council's objective to hold the net impact of the settlement to an increase of 2.25%.

This information is also available on our City of Peterborough website at www.peterborough.ca.

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