

A happy worker smiles for the camera, after accepting a wage offer he didn't expect. Like others, he thought he'd have to strike today.

## **CUPE** votes to accept York offer

By BRIAN MILNER

Over 250 service and maintenance workers voted unanimously Sunday night to accept York's wage and welfare package, averting a potentially crippling strike by a matter of hours.

At 4 am Sunday, following three days of intensive bargaining, the negotiating team for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (Local 1356) reached agreement of points with York.

The workers-cleaners, skilled tradesmen, groundsmen, drivers-ratified a contract which "compares most favourably with all other Metro-area educational institutions, chief union negotiator Jim Anderon said.

Male cleaners won an increase to \$3.10 an hour effective Dec. 1, with another raise to \$3.50 July 1. They now get \$2.50. Women, who now get \$2.06, will go to \$3.00 July

"On a percentage basis the demands (for women) were raised during negotiations," Anderson said. AT the U of T women cleaners get \$2.45 an hour, and men \$3.09.

York's plumbers and electricians, at the top of the scale, will get

\$1.40 increase Dec. 1, and a total raise to \$5.90 July 1. They now get \$4.15 an hour.

York met other union demands regarding welfare, job security, and vacations. The university will now pay two thirds of all welfare costs, up from the previous 50 per-

A clause was inserted protecting union workers against loss of job or lay-off through "contracting out". The possibility of bringing in a private cleaning firm has been discussed before by York officials.

Workers will now get three weeks vacation after only two years service. Previously, the required length of service was seven years.

Workers in all classifications will receive an \$800 lump sum as retroactive pay. The new contract lasts for one year.

"We didn't reach all our goals," Anderson said, "but we've made a giant step toward reaching a CUPE standard of parity."

He described the negotiations as "tough but clean" with "no animosity" at any time.

"We're most pleased we were able to settle this dispute without inconvenience to university staff or students," he said.

## Glendon council rejects strike

In an emergency meeting on Friday Glendon's faculty council refused to support York's cleaners and tradesmen.

They defeated a motion that faculty members honor picket lines, and suspend all classes for the strike and they also blocked a motion to prohibit any classes from being held off-campus. Several felt that these motions would protect individual professors from administration pressures to hold classes outside. Others said it would undermine the Canadian Union of Public Employees strike if they carried on business

as usual outside.

Professor Howard Robertson said the council did not have the administrative nor moral right to dictate a collective policy to faculty members on how to react to a CUPE

Naomi Lyons of Glendon's Students' Strike Support Committee said CUPE had not approached any York group for support. She said although CUPE officials urged faculty and students to honor picket lines CUPE does not consider them strikebreakers unless they try to help fill maintenance jobs.

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