



Strike Vote Meetings - Q&A

What does it mean when you say “only signed members can vote”?

This means that you must sign a membership card.

People who work for the GNWT and are part of the bargaining unit (ie not excluded) but have not signed a card are called “Rand deductees”, which means they get all the benefits of the collective agreement, and will be represented in complaints and grievances. But to participate in your union, you must be a signed member. Participating includes attending meetings and voting.

If you have not signed a card you can do so at the door, or at any time in advance.

What happens at the strike vote meeting?

All members will sign in before entering the room. This is so administration can confirm that members only are attending, and that each member only votes once.

Union leadership and bargaining team members will give you information on the state of bargaining and outstanding issues.

There will then be an opportunity for questions from members.

At the end, you will be given a ballot, and can cast your secret ballot.

Can I vote without attending a strike vote meeting?

Members must attend a strike vote meeting. This is according to PSAC Constitution. It ensures that members are participating in informed voting.

What if I am not able to attend a strike vote meeting?

If you are going to be out of town during all of the opportunities to vote, you can still cast a ballot. If there is a strike vote meeting scheduled for your town, you **MUST** vote in person. You can contact UNW HQ or your UNW regional office to set up a time to come to the office to vote.

What if there is no strike vote meeting scheduled for my community ?

There are a few small communities where meetings have not been scheduled. These members will be mailed a ballot and voting instructions. We strongly encourage these members to call their RVP, HQ, or a bargaining team member to get a good understanding of the issues. Also make sure your mailing address is up to date with the UNW!



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What is the difference between a strike mandate vote and a strike vote?

There is NO difference.

The membership votes, and if the results are a high "mandate", it means the majority of voting members have said to the bargaining team that they will strike if necessary.

It is common practice among all unions that a strike vote is taken before mediation. This is so that the union can show the employer that our members support the bargaining team's position. Just like the GNWT's bargaining team will say they have the support of the government. Sometimes with a strong strike mandate, an employer will see how strong the membership is united, and a strike may be avoided.

BUT if that does not happen, there may be a strike.

What if I have questions about vacation leave, maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc during a strike?

Please contact the UNW to answer questions about your specific situation.

Your VOTE is your voice to the bargaining team.

**If you do not vote, it is NOT a "no" vote and it is NOT a "yes" vote.
It is no input at all.**

So come to a meeting – ask questions - and VOTE!

