

## **SPEAKING NOTES – RESPONSE TO OPENING REMARKS**

We would like to thank you for your opening remarks this morning and for the detailed proposals you have submitted. We note that your submissions align with themes that we put forward in our opening statement as areas that we would like to address. We were surprised by some of your assertions and will have questions about them. We will want to deeply explore the research and data that is informing them. It would be helpful for us if we could receive that research in addition to the proposals that refer to them as we move forward.

Before we proceed with the presentation of your additional proposals, we did want to begin by doing a land acknowledgement. Following that, we would like to respond to a few items that were included in your opening remarks.

With your agreement, I will turn it over to Ian now so that he can do the land acknowledgement and then I will provide our response to your opening remarks. Following that, you can let us know if you would like to caucus or proceed with the presentation of your next set of proposals.

- Land acknowledgement – Ian

With respect to your opening remarks, we are pleased to hear that we agree that we have a collective duty to bargain in good faith and are committed on both sides to do so.

In regard to your concerns about our communication of July 9<sup>th</sup>, we would like to reiterate that, as outlined in our letter dated July 16<sup>th</sup>, that communication was based on the Union's assertion that you were not prepared to agree to those ground rules on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We reported this information as it was presented to us. We remain committed to ground rule #9 and will continue to abide by it.

Finally, with regard to your suggestion that we have arbitrarily expanded the members of our team, we would like to reiterate that this year the bargaining teams consist of the 6 College representatives on the management team and 7 College faculty representatives on the OPSEU team. This composition has varied slightly over the years. As well, each bargaining team has had staff support from their respective bargaining agents, namely CEC and OPSEU. Accordingly, we disagree with the claim that we have expanded our team for this round as additional staff support is commonplace.

We understand you now have other proposals to present to us and look forward to receiving them.