

# Dealing with the Media



If the news media arrives on the line, introduce yourself as the picket captain. Be friendly and be sure that your site is safe, orderly and clean. Beef up the chants and singing if the media is filming.

Show them how solid the line is and how supportive the picketers are for the bargaining and strike committees.

Refer all requests for interviews to the Strike Headquarters.

The media may also want some photo ops, some human-interest stories, etc. Get to know your picketers, listen to their stories and identify what might be a positive way to reinforce support for the strike. For example, the single mom who is coping

with the strike through the generosity of friends and supporters on the line might be interested in getting her story out there. Call the strike headquarters with the story so that someone can try and arrange an interview.

Pass on positive stories about your picket lines to the Strike Headquarters to include in the newsletter or web site. These stories will give everyone a morale boost and help win support for the strike.

If you encounter any problem, please call the Picket Coordinator or the Strike Headquarters.



# Dealing with the Police



It is very important to remember that the picket line belongs to the union.

The approach of police services varies. Police normally treat labour disputes as civil disputes between management and labour and do not take sides. If there is no breach of the peace or criminal misconduct, **the police have no authority in the dispute. This can change if there is an injunction which is a court order telling picketers what they can or cannot do. Police may be involved in the enforcement of injunctions.**

Police officers should therefore attempt to maintain a neutral presence. This includes limiting their involvement to enforcing the law and safeguarding the fundamental rights guaranteed by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Police will sometimes need to be reminded of their role to remain neutral.

There is sometimes a discrepancy between their response times when the employer or the union calls the police. Response time needs to be documented.

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