CITY OF VANCOUVER

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Judy Rogers, City Manager

July 16, 2007

To All CUPE 15 Employees:

I have worked with many of you for many years, and have great respect for your judgment and professionalism. I know you are committed to the work you do and this City. That's why I am personally writing to you.

The recent weeks have been a very stressful time for everyone, and I'm sure even more stressful for your families. There has been a great deal of complex, emotional, and often conflicting information. Now, to top it all off we are asking you to vote on the City's final contract offer.

We asked for a final offer vote for two reasons only: We don't want a strike, and the best person to make a decision about the City's final contract offer is you.

I am very worried about the possibility of a strike. In the past, strikes in Vancouver have typically lasted for 6-8 weeks. This has a huge impact on lives of our residents, disrupts important civic projects, and has serious financial and personal implications for our employees. I respect the strike vote you have taken and your right to strike, but I simply can't imagine how anyone benefits from going down that road.

Given the importance of this vote I ask two things of you: That you make a fully informed decision, and that you vote.

Research the issues and the offer and make the decision that is right for you and your family. You probably have all sorts of questions, and if you do, please ask them. Ask hard questions of your manager. I have asked all of our managers to make themselves available to answer your questions. Ask hard questions of your union. Ask hard questions of me. I will make myself available any way I can to answer your questions. You can e-mail me at judy.rogers@vancouver.ca. Your questions will all be answered.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and your commitment to this great city.

Judy

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