

Preparing for Industrial Action

What you can do to prepare financially

You should expect to lose 1/14th of your normal fortnightly salary for a full day strike. Here are some actions you can take to prepare your finances for next term:

- Try to save a little from each pay before the strike
- Ask for money for Christmas instead of other gifts and put some aside.
- Call in debts owed to you by others
- Defer spending on any non-essential items
- If you have school-aged children, contact their school and seek deferral of school fees, donations, trip costs, etc., until settlement of the collective agreement
- Claim all collective agreement allowances from the school, e.g. travel reimbursements and field allowances
- See if you can join a food cooperative to reduce grocery costs
- Secure or extend your overdraft facilities
- Approach your bank and other organisations to which you make regular payments and seek deferral or temporary reduction of payments
- If you are new to budgeting contact the Budget Advice Service in your area

If you are in difficult financial circumstances you can ask the branch and the region for support. For significant hardship there is a national hardship fund you can apply to.

If you are in a stronger financial situation contribute to a branch hardship fund to assist colleagues who will need assistance.

What your branch can do to support

- Send out our pre-written letter to businesses and groups in your community
- Find out from your regional team whether they have funds already set aside for supporting striking colleagues, and what the criteria are to access it
- Create a branch hardship fund and ask your colleagues and non-members to donate what they can. Either one-off or on-going donations are helpful
- Coordinate bulk buying of groceries and fruit and vegetables to reduce costs.
- Encourage sharing resources (fruit from your fruit trees, excess vegetables from the garden etc).
- Talk with your fellow members about any concerns they might have around industrial action and reassure them that we are all in this together