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For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

FAILED EFFORTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN *VILLE DE COOKSHIRE-EATON* AND THE *VILLE DE COOKSHIRE-EATON WORKERS' UNION-CSN*

Cookshire-Eaton – July 23, 2018 – Negotiations have broken down between *Ville de Cookshire-Eaton* and the *Ville de Cookshire-Eaton Workers' Union (CSN)*. The *Ville de Cookshire-Eaton* deplores the failure of negotiations following today's round of collective bargaining.

Several collective bargaining sessions have been held since the end of February 2018.

A strike by union members is currently underway and, as per essential services negotiations, day camps were being maintained until Friday, July 27. However, as of Monday, July 30, the City will have to close down the day camp service as well as the pool and the libraries. Only essential services required for health and safety will be maintained. The City Hall will remain open and residential garbage pick-up will be carried out once every four weeks, beginning the week of August 13th.

The **main** points of contention are the introduction of a cash retirement bonus, which is separate from the pension plan already in force; salary increases; and, an additional benefit on top of the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan for paternity and maternity leave.

The employer is offering the following wage increases for the years 2019 to 2023: a minimum of 2% per year and a maximum of 2.5% per year based on the consumer price index established each year by the *Régie des rentes du Québec*. For the year 2018, the employer is offering a fixed hourly increase of \$0.55 per hour which represents an increase of 3.8% for the lowest-paid employee and an increase of 1.7% for the highest-paid employee.

In addition, for Level V employees, namely those working as school crossing guards, clerks, janitors, day laborers, and library clerks, the employer is offering an additional adjustment of 0.5% applicable January 1, 2019 to reduce the gap between level IV and level V.

Concerns about what citizens can afford and in light of the enviable working conditions currently in place and those offered, the Council is convinced that its offer is fair, reasonable and equitable. The Council is clearly aware that taxpayers face a number of disadvantages while only essential services are being maintained.

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