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August 22, 2005

## Media workers at CBC locked out; our support is important now



## **Dear Member:**

There is a picket around the massive CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto and at every CBC facility in the country. Walking outside the secured doors are some of the 5,500 men and women who have been put out of their jobs and onto the street by an intransigent CBC management that is trying to force the union into accepting that future workers will be contractual, occasional, and needless to say, without benefits or job security. I joined their picket this week and spoke to many of them.

Joining me to show support for the workers were ACTRA Toronto President Karl Pruner, several ACTRA Toronto member-leaders, and ACTRA staff including National Executive Director Stephen Waddell. We wore Canadian Media Guild placards as we joined CBC workers in their picket line. Karl and I were also asked to address the workers and express our solidarity with them. I could see that our support lifted the spirits of those on the picket line, workers who have no idea when and how this dispute will end.

I'd like to urge all ACTRA members and staff across the country to take a few minutes out of your day to walk the line in your city with our CBC sisters and brothers. Do it on your own or organize a group of ACTRA folks and go down there together.

No less than the future of public broadcasting in this country may be at stake, that of course, is essential to a strong and thriving culture that is precious to us all. And the men and women who keep Canada's public broadcaster on the air everyday will be thankful for your support .

Richard Hardacre
ACTRA National President