

PARKDALE

A publication of Parkdale: Organize!

PARKDALE SUPPORTS FOOD TERMINAL WORKERS

སྐབ་ཤེས་བྱེས་Food Terminal ལས་མི་རྣམ་ལ་རྒྱབ་སྐྱོར་ཡོང།



Jack and Karma are warehouse workers and union organizers on strike at the Ontario Food Terminal. Parkdale Organize went to the picket line to speak with them on April 25.

Fourteen of us workers have been on strike since last week. We work for Fresh Taste Produce at the Ontario Food Terminal. We organized our union in October. Now we are on strike for fair wages. Many of us have worked here for years and have received no pay raises, or very little. Our longest standing member has worked for the company for 18 years. When he started he was paid \$12 an hour. Eighteen years later he's making \$14.50 an hour. The average wage is \$14 an hour. Other unionized workers at the food Terminal are making \$20 or more an hour. That's what we're fighting for.

We are also fighting against the discrimination and racism we face from the boss. They treat us Tibetan workers poorly. They tamper with our punch cards to cheat us out of our pay for the hours we have worked. When we complain they tell us "if you don't like it go back to your country" or they threaten to fire all the Tibetan workers. Sometimes they send us home after working only 3 or 4 hours as punishment for standing up for our rights.

We are a small group but we are holding our own. We need support. Just yesterday they started bringing in scabs. They aren't trained or certified to use the machinery. We've called the Ministry of Labour because it's a health and safety issue.

We all live in Parkdale. My brother lives at 188 Jameson. They fought their landlord, Akelius, and won. We're fighting our boss here at the Food Terminal. We can win too. If you live in Parkdale, please support us on our picket line.

WE ARE PARKDALE!

SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBOURS ON STRIKE AT THE FOOD TERMINAL

Food Terminal ལས་མིའི་ཐོབ་ཐང་འཐབ་ཚུང་བ་བྱིམ་མཚོས་རྣམ་ལ་རོགས་སྐྱོར་བྱེད་དགོས།

Our neighbours are still organizing! Not just at their buildings against their landlords with their rent increases and evictions. They're organizing at their jobs against their bosses' theft, abuse and low pay. There's a strike going on at the Food Terminal. Workers there are demanding fair pay and fair conditions. Those workers are your neighbours and you have just as much reason to support them as anyone that fights against landlords harassing or ripping off tenants.

They'll try to tell us that's not enough. We need to compromise. "Talk with the politicians and go through the courts", they tell us. "They're too powerful and we're too weak", we'll hear from each other. But this is all wrong. There are more of us than them; we're stronger than them; and we've been through more than they could ever imagine. When we come together, when we organize together, support each other, and fight for each other, we are capable of more than any landlord, boss or politician.

We know what it's like to get squeezed between high rent and low pay. Fighting rent increases is only one side of the squeeze; low pay is just as much a Parkdale issue as high rent. And we fight for higher pay the same way we fight against higher rent: by organizing. When working class people organize together, make decisions together, and fight together – we win together. The fight boils down to our families', coworkers' and neighbours' health and safety vs. our bosses' and landlords' profit margins. They have the courts and politicians in their favour. We have each other.

One streetcar ride away, people that live in your buildings work hard to make sure Toronto has fresh food to eat. They've been doing this important work without getting a pay increase for over 10 years. They're organized and on strike to demand better pay and better conditions. It's our responsibility to support them.

Come down to the Food Terminal to show support for your neighbours on strike. This is Parkdale. There's Strength in Numbers.

Join the picket line!

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Meet us ...

THURSDAY MAY 5TH - 7AM
TIM HORTON'S @ QUEEN/JAMESON
OR SHOW UP AT 165 THE QUEENSWAY



PARKDALE

ORGANIZE!

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