



MILTON, March 12, 2021 – Talks broke off on March 10th, 2021, after four (4) days of negotiations between **Unifor Local 414** and Employer **Lennox and Addington Interval House (LAIH)**, a Women’s Shelter which is a feminist organization dealing with distressed women in the Community.

“The employer would not engage in constructive dialogue over simple matters of language during negotiations,” says **Mike Armstrong**, Unifor Local 414 consultant, “let alone agree to put current *Ontario Government Law and Regulations* into the agreement.” Many of **LAIH** Staff are forced to go to the office, even though many of them can, and do work from home violating the KFL&A Public Health Guidelines:

“Under O. Reg 82/20 under the Reopening Ontario Act ([English](#) or [français](#)), each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, with limited exception, for instance, where the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace”.

“LAIH has lots of money for Corporate lawyers, but continues to ignore the health and wellbeing of their staff and clients at risk of COVID-19.” Says Mike Armstrong, “this is unfair and dangerous. These-frontline staff are providing valuable services to women and children leaving domestic violence, who are our communities most vulnerable. They deserve support and fair compensation.”

The Executive Director at **LAIH** ignores her own memo referencing the stay-at-home order and the staff have diligently been working throughout the pandemic, going against provincial emergency orders and stay-at-home orders without any clear direction from management. On top of this, the Employer requested a monetary concession from the employees with respect to their Wellness / Counseling program during negotiations even though they are still dealing with simple language.

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