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Media Release

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For Immediate Release**

**CUPE Makes Application for Certification of
Municipality of Brighton Employees**

Brighton, ON - On Monday, October 3, 2011 the Municipality of Brighton received notice that the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) had applied to the Ontario Labour Relations Board for certification of a group of Municipal employees. The vote by employees is expected to be held next Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

Mayor Mark Walas stated “We feel strongly that the Municipality is and has been a fair employer over the years, and that our current relationship with our valued staff is worth preserving. The Municipality respects each employee’s freedom to join or not to join a trade union and we urge every employee to exercise their right to vote. ”

The certification vote, requested by the CUPE, will determine if non-administrative staff wish to be represented by CUPE in negotiations for a first collective agreement. The Ontario Labour Relations Board is overseeing the vote, and at least 50 percent of those who vote, plus one, have to be in favour for certification to be granted.

“The Municipality would prefer not to have to work with our staff, through a union. However, if the majority of the employees vote for a union, we will respect that choice, but we believe our workplace works better without a “third party” – a union – in the middle,” commented CAO Gayle Frost.

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