

2018 Forestry Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

2018 Forestry Bargaining

Update #3

May 30, 2018

USW Provincial Forestry Bargaining Process

As most are aware the USW has successfully pattern bargained in BC for more than 60 years. USW members from sites across the southern interior and northern BC submitted resolutions to the wage and contract conference to be reviewed and democratically endorsed as bargaining proposals. After proposals are exchanged your committee meets to decide which employer appears prepared to negotiate a new agreement which will be taken to all employer groups.

IFLRA Unprepared to Begin Bargaining Process

Your USW Provincial Bargaining Committee met and attempted to commence bargaining with the IFLRA (Interior Forest Labour Relation Association) on May 15th at their offices in Kelowna, BC. The IFLRA membership has dramatically expanded recently to include employers such as Canfor, Canoe Forest Products as well as others, who were not previously at IFLRA negotiations. Although your committee came to bargaining expecting to exchange proposals, the employers refused to bargain unless the USW accepted a ratification process dictated by the Employer Group. This issue will be addressed at a later date at the BC Labour Relations Board.

CONIFER & West Fraser Exchange Proposals with USW

On May 29th your bargaining committee met with representatives of both CONIFER (Council on Northern Interior Forest Employment Relations) and West Fraser. The USW provided both groups 61 proposals from USW members in the Interior and North. Company proposals were provided to the USW in return.

What's the Next Step?

Now that the 3 major employers have been given opportunity to express interest in negotiating the 2018 pattern, the Interior/North USW Bargaining Committee choose CONIFER to begin the bargaining process.

Your USW Bargaining Committee commence consists of: Doug Singer (1-405), Pat McGregor (1-423), Marty Gibbons (1-417), Brian O'Rourke (1-2017) & Bob Matters

MARTY GIBBONS – PRESIDENT 181 Vernon Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2B 1L7

Office: (250) 554-3167 Cell (250) 319-2844 Fax: (250) 554-3499

JOIN THE LOCAL EMAIL LIST SEND AN EMAIL TO:

steel1417@telus.net

