



# 2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 FORESTRY BARGAINING UPDATE #3 – MAY 9, 2019

### Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

#### USW PROPOSES TO IMPROVE SECURITY, WAGES AND BENEFITS WFP SUBMITS MASSIVE CONCESSIONS AND ATTACKS SENIORITY RIGHTS

Your Coast Bargaining Committee tabled your 65 proposals with Western Forest Products on April 15, 2019. The proposals, which were finalized by the membership at its delegated Wage & Contract Conference on Feb 28, 2019, are well thought out proposals that seek to protect and improve the membership's security and rights as well as to share in the profits created by the membership for their companies. Twelve bargaining dates have been set between now and June 15<sup>th</sup>.

At our first meeting **WFP tabled 24 concessions ranging from;** turning the industry wide pension plan into an RRSP; reducing your vacations; eliminating the hours method for vacation pay; management ability to force vacation use during curtailments; eliminating your floating holiday; making prerequisites for leave of absences; opting out of the industry wide benefit plan (in other words lowering your benefits); eliminating the ability to improve LTD benefits; attacking contracting out protection; eliminating union training and taking work away from log sort operations; and other unacceptable proposals.

**They also tabled a direct attack on our members and our seniority rights by giving notice to cancel all local agreements (including training agreements), practices and other agreements affecting all WFP operations.**

It is quite unbelievable that WFP would stoop to the level they have in tabling issues that have no relation to the reality of the strong industry and good markets we have today or those projected (by WFP) for the future.

**Your Bargaining Committee has made it very clear to WFP that concessions will not be accepted in any form during 2019 bargaining. Members need to know that a good agreement can and will be achieved, regardless of WFP's outright disregard for reality.** Remember the Coast Forest Industry had one of its best years on record in 2018 and the Coast Industry is in better financial shape than when we last entered bargaining in 2014 and our members need to share in that growth and wealth.

**YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY ARISE. PLEASE ASK YOUR COWORKERS TO SIGN UP TO THE TEXT UPDATE SYSTEM BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICES IN DUNCAN, PORT ALBERNI, COURTENAY, PORT MCNEILL OR BURNABY**



**Brian Butler – President, USW Local 1-1937**

**Phone: (250)746-6131**

**USW Local 1-1937 Offices: Duncan, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Port McNeill and Burnaby**

**Website: [www.usw1-1937.ca](http://www.usw1-1937.ca)**

**Facebook: [usw1-1937](https://www.facebook.com/usw1-1937)**