



2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #21 – September 27, 2019

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

MEMBERS WHO HAD THEIR EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS CUT OFF WILL HAVE THEM RESTORED THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH PBC, THE LOCAL UNION & TRUSTEES

As most of you affected are aware, WFP and a number of associated contractors applied to cancel MSP, Extended Health and Dental benefits for members retroactive to September 1st. **This was a bullying attempt by WFP to undermine USW member support for the strike and a blatant disregard by WFP for the health and well-being of the members, their spouses, and their children. The action by WFP and other uncaring contractors clearly shows that WFP is desperate and absolutely does not care who they hurt to get their way.**

The good news is that USW Local 1-1937 and our Union side Health & Welfare Trustees, plus Union advisors, have worked out a member payback program with Pacific Blue Cross that will reinstate coverage for Extended Health and Dental backdated to September 1st for those that were cut off by WFP and some contractors that followed them.

We negotiated a flexible arrangement where members who have spousal coverage elsewhere can decide to not opt in if they choose and therefore not pay back once they return to work; as well the agreement allows those wanting the benefits to opt in and choose if they want just the Extended Health Benefit or Dental or both. MSP is not included.

We still have some agreements to sign with PBC this coming week and will advise you early next week when the member opt-in process will take place. For those that have incurred costs since September 1st, please keep your receipts so you can claim the expense once the coverage is reinstated.

We wish to also advise members that the Life Insurance and AD&D coverage which is covered on the Trusteed section of our H&W Benefits remains in place while WFP's attempt to cancel that benefit is heard by a third party as part of the Trusteed Plans internal process.

As has been reported before, the continuation of benefits during a labour dispute has been agreed upon by the joint H&W Trustees since 1993. WFP pushed the Industry Trustees to challenge this continuation and the Union Trustees are opposing WFP's anti-union, anti-worker efforts. We will update you when the third party makes their ruling on the matter.

WYE LAKE CONTRACTING FINAL OFFER APPLICATION TO LRB REJECTED

The Local Union was advised last week by the Labour Relations Board that the concession filled Final Offer Vote Application filed for Wye Lake Contracting was dismissed for a variety of irregularities in their application.

The lawyer Wye Lake used is the same lawyer WFP has used in its attack on the Union's right to have companies sign Me-Too Agreements. It is also the same WFP lawyer who applied to the LRB for the concession riddled Final Offer Votes for three Woodland Contractors working for WFP on TFL 44. These applications were ultimately withdrawn the day before the scheduled vote, due to the fact that the pension gutting proposal was not legitimate as the Pension Plan Text will not allow for some members to opt out of the industry wide Plan.

This is good news for the Wye Lake crew. If the vote was conducted and supported by this crew, it would have left the crew operating under a very sub-standard collective agreement that does nothing but put those members on a race to the bottom in wages, benefits, job security, and many other worker rights.



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