



# 2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #42 – December 27, 2019

### Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

#### **BARGAINING COMMITTEE RECEIVES CLEAR MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONAL LEADERS AND UNION MEMBERS AFTER FIVE AREA MEETINGS**

In meetings held December 19<sup>th</sup> with operational leaders, followed by meetings with Union members in Port Alberni, Ladysmith, Port McNeill, Campbell River and Powell River on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Bargaining Committee received a clear message: **Our members remain strong and want us to fight for a fair deal that resolves our members most important issues and accepts no concessions.**

All of the meetings had great turnouts with some having standing room only.

Members were given a comprehensive overview of what has transpired at the bargaining table to date, so members know what the key moments of bargaining have been, so far.

Those moments include:

- WFP tabling massive concessions (that were completely unwarranted considering the markets) and keeping them on the table into the fall which only served to prolong the strike.
- WFP's American Style bargaining by litigation process that saw them file numerous unwarranted Applications to the Labour Relations Board in an attempt to undermine and bleed the Union of money.
- The dysfunction of WFP's bargaining style led to no movement in the Parties' proposals, as they would not tentatively agree to proposals, which resulted in other proposals not being dropped when progress was made. WFP would also drop a concession in one meeting and then bring the concession back in the next meeting, which effectively stopped the Union from reducing its proposals. These issues and others culminated in WFP changing their bargaining team in November.
- That to date WFP still has concessions on the table regarding Contracting Out and Local Agreements and Practices.

The Bargaining Committee informed members of the Government's public statements on the strike and our concern that WFP may not be altering their proposals or agreeing to ours if they feel the Government will get involved and force a binding arbitration; which is something WFP desires.

## 2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #42 – December 27, 2019 *(continued)*

The Union has been clear that free collective bargaining in the private sector is a non-essential service and should not be interfered with. Doing so would only benefit WFP.

We have remained available to meet each and every day and expect to be called back by the Mediators, shortly. We remind members that no updates on those sessions will be given until the Mediators lift the blackout on bargaining details.

We will update the membership as soon as we are able.



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