



2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 FORESTRY BARGAINING UPDATE #5 MAY 31, 2019

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

WFP CONTINUES TO DEFINE A LOWER STANDARD

Since our last update Western Forest Products has dug in and maintained all of its massive concessions from workers while at the same time not agreeing to any of the Unions proposals.

"The company is betting the farm that workers will accept massive concessions including the elimination of their pension plan, erosion of seniority rights, reducing rights in contracting out language, cutting benefits, reducing vacation entitlement and many more, if they offer workers a meager below the cost of living 2 percent annually....all while outright rejecting any of the Unions proposals, including appropriate wage and benefit improvements and addressing onerous alternate shifts which members have overwhelmingly labeled as unsafe and negatively impacting their health and family life as well as their ill-conceived and ill-managed drug & alcohol policy that drives safety underground and targets and demeans workers", stated **Brian Butler, President of USW Local 1-1937.**

Due to the serious threats WFP proposes in reducing your rights and their unwillingness to recognize the worker's role in creating the Company's record earnings, the Local Union has broken off bargaining with the employer as of May 30 and will spend the next period of time consulting and communicating with our members.

"It is truly remarkable that WFP fails to recognize that the Company would not be where it is without our member's dedication and life's labour. It is no wonder that our members have such a poor view of this Company and morale amongst WFP employees is so low", stated **Local 1st Vice President, Rick Nelson**

Area meetings will be set up throughout the Local to discuss WFP's provocative stance in bargaining. Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and your email for more information on meetings. Text messages will also be used to inform members of meetings and other information.

"WFP is ignoring the fact that the coastal industry is enjoying great markets (which the Company's own projections say will continue for years), for their high-value coastal products and logs, which have generated record earnings for them. They seem to think that workers don't realize this and will want to give back to the Company without a fight. They are dead wrong.", stated **Local 2nd Vice President Richard Arnason**

We will continue to update you as developments occur. As a reminder to members, please call your Local Office if you wish to be added to the text messaging system or update your contact information.



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