



# 2019 - 2020 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #52 – March 2, 2020

### Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

#### ***STRIKE ASSISTANCE***

Strike assistance will continue for members (formerly on strike) who have not been recalled to work following the strike, as long as funds are made available by the International Union. As of this Bargaining Update, we know strike assistance will continue until at least March 6<sup>th</sup> for these members. The Local Union urges all members who have not been recalled to work to make an application for Employment Insurance benefits.

Separately, members of three contractors in TFL 44 remain on strike (Island Forest Company, Big Lake Logging, and Mount Sicker - Franklin), therefore the strike assessment will continue, but will be reduced from \$20 to \$5 effective February 24 for all working forest industry members, in order to support those remaining on strike. The \$5 dollar assessment will end once an agreement is reached with these contractors.

The three contractor owners in TFL 44 were unavailable to bargain last week but have now agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 3 to resume bargaining. There remain key issues that need to be addressed in bargaining with these contract companies. They have chosen to continue using Roger MacDougall from WFP as their spokesperson.

**Contrary to people who like to spread false information on social media sites, strike assistance is not repayable. It is a "tax-free" benefit that does not get repaid.**

#### ***HEALTH & WELFARE BENEFITS***

All Health and Welfare Benefits have been reinstated for members who have been recalled to work as well as for those who are currently laid off.

For those members who remain on strike in TFL 44, you shall continue to receive the Extended Health & Welfare Benefits that you signed up for on an individual basis.

**TERMINATED WFP MEMBERS WITH LESS THAN ONE YEAR AND THOSE ON PROBATIONARY WILL BE REINSTATED.**

In the interest of moving forward, the Parties have made an agreement to resolve this matter.

- a) The Employer will rescind all of the terminations.
- b) Employees who were terminated on the basis of their seniority retention had expired will have their pre-strike seniority dates reinstated. Their seniority retention period shall be deemed to have paused for the duration of the strike. This means that February 17, 2020, will be treated as being the day after July 1, 2019. For the sake of clarity, a worker who had 90 days of seniority retention left on July 1, 2019, had 89 days of seniority retention left on February 17, 2020. This is assuming they did not work on February 17, 2020.
- c) Employees who were terminated on the basis they failed to meet the requirements of their probationary period will continue their probationary periods as of February 17, 2020. The period of the strike will not be counted in the calculation of their probationary periods, so February 17, 2020, will be treated as being the day after July 1, 2019. For the sake of clarity, a worker who had worked 30 days out of 45 days on July 1, 2019, will be deemed to have worked 30 days out of 46 days on February 17, 2020. This is assuming they did not work on February 17, 2020.
- d) The Parties and employees continue to have all the rights, benefits, and obligations under the Collective Agreement

Members who were terminated should expect to be contacted by WFP regarding their reinstatement.



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