



2019 - 2020 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #53 – March 31, 2020

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release Update on TFL 44 Bargaining

**TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH 3 CONTRACT COMPANIES ON TFL 44
MOUNT SICKER TIMBER COMPANY, BIG LAKE LOGGING, ISLAND FOREST COMPANY**

Today we reached a tentative agreement with three contract companies that decided they would bargain separately using WFP reps as their spokesperson. It made no sense to bargain separately using the same person bargaining with the Union at WFP's bargaining table but that is the path they chose.

Like WFP they came to the table with massive concessions somehow thinking our membership would accept them during a period of good markets in April 2019. Our members demonstrated that concessions were not going to be accepted in any form.

Ultimately, I am sure in hindsight the three contractors got the message they were not going to get a substandard agreement from the rest of the industry that they were looking for. They finally agreed to remove their concessions and agreed upon the wages, benefits and terms of the USW/WFP Collective Agreement.

As a matter of fact, the three contractors had to give up their two-tiered travel time, which they forced on the crew during the subdivision of Franklin Division and will now pay travel time as per the Collective Agreement. This is something the bargaining committee received a clear mandate to change from its members.

The three contractors also had to agree that the 5x10 hour straight time shift agreement will end 12 months early. We would urge the two other Woodland Contractors in the operation who did sign Me-Too Agreements to drop this shift 12 months early as well.

These contract companies (and previously TFL 44 LP) also had to withdraw their lawsuits against the Union. The suits were filed after the BC Labour Relations Board determined that the Union could not deem the contractors to have signed a Me-Too Agreement, even though they refused to respond to the Union's written request to sign a Me-Too Agreement or start collective bargaining.

As part of this bargaining update you will find attached:

- **The Meeting and Ratification Vote Notice**
- **The Absentee Vote Notice**
- **The signed tentative Memorandum of Agreement with your employer, which references;**
- **The WFP Memorandum of Agreement which applies to you**



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