



## MEDIA RELEASE

**May 6, 2021 – Duncan BC** – The United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1-1937 has been made aware of incidents within Tree Farm Licence 44 involving workers and protestors on or before May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Investigations are now underway independently and jointly amongst the tree farm licence holder - TFL 44 LP as well as the Woodlands Contractor - Island Forest Company and the USW, for everyone to have a full understanding of what took place. Our Union does not have all the facts at this time, including the identity of the workers involved but will know more in the coming days.

USW Local 1-1937 is very disturbed by the nature of the events and wants to be clear that there is no place for violence in our places of work, including the forests where many of our members work. Allegations of racial motivation and racist remarks will also be fully investigated. Even prior to completing its investigation our Union wants to be clear that we strongly believe in fairness, social justice and equality for all and we denounce any forms of racist rhetoric and racially motivated actions.

We are aware that the RCMP and WorkSafeBC have been notified and we will cooperate in any investigation these organizations may undertake.

We were advised by TFL 44 LP that all our members working within the TFL were off the job yesterday to be briefed on safety work practices and public protest protocols. The USW supports these protocols and urges all our members not to engage with protestors and to be respectful of their right to legally protest. Even where a protest is determined through legal processes, to be illegal, we ask our members not to engage and let those with the legal authority do so.

### **Media Inquiries:**

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