



2022 Red Chris Mine Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

BARGAINING UPDATE #14 – June 13, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Following our recent internal Red Chris membership polling, the Local Union filed an application for mediation at the BC Labour Relations Board on May 24th under Section 74, which appoints a mediator to assist the parties in reaching a collective agreement.

Following the appointment of David Schaub as the Mediator, the parties met via zoom on June 8th and 10th. During those two meetings the parties found agreement on six issues that were outstanding, but progress stalled on June 10th when dealing with the important issue of job security and training, for those members whose jobs will be impacted when the operation goes underground, and pit operations cease in the future.

It is critically important that we continue our efforts to protect the work within the bargaining unit from technological change and from contracting out. It is equally important that Newcrest get off its embarrassing low wage and monetary proposals. Reaching an agreement will need Newcrest to recognize that they under pay their workers in comparison to all other organized mines and that inflation is rising. To keep workers from leaving to better paying opportunities Newcrest needs to significantly improve its monetary proposals.

Newcrest would not agree to the mediators next available dates (June 20th, 21st, and 22nd) which once again demonstrates their failure to provide timely dates for bargaining (and now mediation). The next dates Newcrest are making available is July 6th, 7th and 8th. Which leaves your bargaining committee and the mediator waiting for three weeks to meet again.

The constant delays created by Newcrest not agreeing to more dates, has led your committee to withdraw its Section 74 application and reapply to the BC LRB under Section 55 (for First Collective Agreements) which includes the following language:

If the first collective agreement is not concluded within 20 days of the appointment of the mediator, the mediator must report to the associate chair and recommend either or both of the following:

(a) the terms of the first collective agreement for consideration by the parties;

(b) a process for concluding the first collective agreement including one or more of the following:

(i) further mediation by a person empowered to arbitrate any issues not resolved by agreement and to conclude the terms of the first collective agreement;

(ii) arbitration by a single arbitrator or by the board, to conclude the terms of the first collective agreement;

(iii) allowing the parties to exercise their rights under this Code to strike or lock out.

Mediator Schaub did secure the meetings on July 6th, 7th and 8th (under Section 55 of the Labour Code) will be in person in Vancouver, which we feel is important at this stage of the bargaining/mediation process.

We hope that Newcrest gets serious with their next proposals as their efforts to stall progress and keep underpaying workers at Red Chris is not in the worker's or Newcrest's best interests.

We will continue to keep the membership updated as mediation progresses.

In solidarity,

Your USW Bargaining Committee

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