



# 2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #12 – July 12, 2019

### STRIKE ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to all of our members for your solidarity in our united fight for a good collective agreement with Western Forest Products that our members deserve. Our fight is one that we must all take on, especially when facing the kind of unwarranted concessions WFP is seeking and dismissal of your proposals.

#### FACTS

- ❖ There is \$500 million dollars in the USW International Strike Assistance Fund, which is there to support the 850,000 USW members in North America who are either on strike or locked out.
- ❖ The strike assistance payment is \$225 per week, per member.
- ❖ Strike assistance is payable per member on strike and is paid to members performing picket duty, therefore, if any member finds a job elsewhere the \$225 that they would have received had they been doing picket duty is put back into the pool and evenly distributed to those members doing picket duty. For Example: If 100 people were on strike there would be \$22,500 paid out each week (\$225 each) if they all did picket duty. If 25 of them went to work elsewhere the \$5,625 they would have been paid is distributed to those doing picket duty making strike assistance \$300 per week.

#### SOLIDARITY STRIKE ASSISTANCE

- ❖ The Local Union has strategized that the best way to maximize pressure on WFP and to best support those striking was to strike WFP operations and allow other company's operations to continue working while paying \$20 per day worked into a solidarity strike fund which we will use to increase strike assistance for those who are picketing.
- ❖ The reason for this is that striking other companies, not related to WFP, would not increase pressure on WFP one bit and it would allow WFP's competition to continue to work, which does apply more pressure to WFP. It also allows the Local Union to further increase weekly strike assistance payments to those members doing picket duty.

## **WAITING PERIOD**

- ❖ The strike assistance rules put in place by the International includes a three (3) week waiting period. While this is definitely not great, it is something that is beyond the Local Union's control at the moment. It is an issue we plan to address through a resolution to the next International Conference.
- ❖ That being said, the fact is that while the wait is three weeks, the member will ultimately have two weeks that they do not receive strike assistance as strike assistance continues for one week when a member returns to work.
- ❖ It bears repeating from earlier bargaining updates that the Strike Assistance Fund is in no way meant to replace your earnings. It is designed to cover some basics while a member is on strike. The Local Union will do its best to work on ensuring the assistance is as high as possible for our members.

## **FOR MEMBERS WORKING**

For those members who continue to work:

- ❖ The \$20 per workday assessment will directly support those members taking strike action on behalf of all members.
- ❖ You benefit from the striking worker's action due to the collective agreement we intend to reach for which your employer will be bound.
- ❖ Your solidarity and support for those members on strike is necessary to keep the pressure on WFP.

Thank you all for your support & solidarity in our struggle to achieve the contract we all deserve.



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