



2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #26 – October 31, 2019

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

EXTENDED HEALTH CARE & DENTAL BENEFITS BACK IN PLACE

After a delay on Pacific Blue Cross's (PBC) end, the Local Union has secured the reinstatement of EHC & Dental Benefits starting this Friday, Nov 1st, 2019 for those members who applied to have them reinstated.

As members will recall, Western Forest Products (WFP) attempted to undermine the membership's resolve by cutting benefits off on Sept 1st. Continuing benefits during a strike has been agreed to for 25 plus years prior to WFP's underhanded attempt.

We are happy to report those members whose Benefits were cut off by WFP and other employers are being reinstated. We ask that you check online under PBC CARESnet to ensure the suspension has been lifted before you submit any receipts that have been declined as of September 1, 2019. For most members that have requested Benefits, they will be reinstated by the weekend.

We note that striking members continue to have Life and AD&D coverage. This benefit is under our Trusteed portion of the Plan. Industry Trustees have asked these benefits to be cancelled at the request of WFP. Union Trustees have advised the Industry Trustees that the Benefits remain in place due to an agreement amongst the Joint Trustees dating back to 1993. An internal H&W Trust dispute process is now ongoing as the parties seek a third party to hear the dispute. A decision on the case is not expected until sometime in the first quarter of 2020.

USW LOCAL 1-1937 WINS AGAIN IN LATEST FRIVOLOUS WFP LITIGATION CHALLENGE

WFP continues with its series of litigation challenges instead of negotiating. In the most recent decision, the Company's application to the Labour Relations Board (LRB), regarding an allegation that the Union did not bargain in good faith, has been dismissed on several grounds. Most notably because it was baseless, as it was clear the Union wanted to reach an agreement and that the parties bargained on all issues prior to the strike vote. The LRB also ruled that WFP's application to the LRB was out of time, and would have been dismissed on that issue alone.

It closes another chapter in WFP's goal to weaken the Union, by forcing the Union to defend the members' rights and spend Local Union resources over baseless allegations. It is an "American Style" litigation approach that will continue to fail. It is a tactic that will do nothing but harden the Union's resolve in pushing back on this anti-union company over its continuing attacks on Union members at the bargaining table, at the LRB and in the courts. WFP is continuing to waste huge sums of time, money and energy on lawyers, LRB hearings and court hearings, rather than negotiating issues at the bargaining table. This clearly is demonstrating their priorities are not in our members' best interest.

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #26 – October 31, 2019 *(continued)*

MEDIATION UPDATE

After WFP refused to move on any of their proposals on Sunday, Oct 20th, and despite the advice of the Mediator that there was no further movement due to WFP being “dug in”, the Union continues to signal to WFP that it is prepared for more mediation, when WFP signals it is prepared to revise its last proposal.

The Company’s lead negotiator recently approached a member of the Union’s bargaining team on Oct 23rd and stated that the parties should get back to the mediation table. The Company’s spokesperson was advised to contact the Union’s lead negotiator to discuss their desire, but he failed to do so by Oct 28th. The Union’s lead negotiator then emailed WFP’s negotiator on Oct 28th, to inquire if the approach on Oct 23rd was sincere, and asked him to contact the mediator if he was serious about wanting to make revisions to their proposals and resume mediation. As of Oct 31st, we have yet to receive a reply from WFP’s lead negotiator to commence mediation.

MEMBERS TO RALLY AT WFP’S NANAIMO OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 6TH AT 1:00 PM.

Members of USW Local 1-1937 will be out in force to demonstrate the need for a “fair contract now” outside WFP’s Nanaimo Office at 1:00 pm on November 6th. Come out and show your support.

Members, Affiliates, families, and friends will gather at Nob Hill Park (400 Milford Crescent Nanaimo BC) to have lunch and marshal for the short walk to WFP’s offices where we will demonstrate our desire for a fair contract that addresses our issues and is free from concessions. **Please make every effort to attend this important demonstration and bring people with you.** So far it looks like the weather will be just fine.

Please see our website at www.usw1-1937.ca for details such as directions and info on Bus Transportation from North Island, Powell River ferry in Comox and Port Alberni, with pickups along the way. South Island Members are encouraged to carpool to this event.

SEE YOU AT THE RALLY WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6th AT 1:00 PM



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