



2019 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2019 BARGAINING UPDATE #35 – December 2, 2019

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

LOCAL UNION'S OPERATIONAL LEADERS UNANIMOUSLY DEMAND THE BARGAINING COMMITTEE TO STAND FIRM ON THE MEMBERSHIP'S ALTERNATE SHIFTS PROPOSAL

Following a late-night meeting with WFP representatives last Thursday night to discuss the big issues that the parties remain apart on, the Union then caucused with its elected operational representatives to review the status of bargaining on Friday in Courtenay.

The elected representatives were advised of the continued WFP concessions on contracting out, Local Agreements and practices still being on the table, as well as membership proposals on Alternate Shifts, WFP's Drug & Alcohol Policy and Long Term Disability among other issues still not being addressed.

The operational representatives reported that the vast majority of members remain committed to reinstating voting rights on fatigue-inducing, unsafe alternate shifts that are significantly impacting member's safety, emotional wellbeing and family life.

The membership's current proposal demands that prior to alternate shifts being implemented, they require the mutual agreement of Local 1-1937 and approval of the crew in a vote held by the Local Union.

WFP has been dismissing the legitimate safety concerns of their crews during the term of the last collective agreement and currently are refusing to allow members to have a vote on shifts that negatively and significantly impact their lives.

"It must be clear to WFP by now that our members have serious health and safety concerns with these dangerous unwanted shift schedules. For years employees have reported that these compressed work schedules create fatigue and unsafe conditions as well as have significant negative emotional impacts on their family lives. When these long and arduous alternate shifts are combined with the company's egregious Drug & Alcohol Policy (where workers refuse to report accidents for fear of being tested and fired) safety is driven underground. "It is a recipe for disaster", stated Brian Butler, USW Local 1-1937 President.

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“It is not surprising that WFP continues to ignore the human element and safety problems with these shifts. For a company that talks about SAFETY FIRST, they certainly don’t show it when their only argument is an economic one”, stated Richard Arnason, USW Local 1-1937 2nd Vice President.

We have requested that the company resume mediation but WFP at this point is refusing to move on this very contentious issue.



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