



# 2019 - 2020 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #44 – January 24, 2020

### Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

#### **MOST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NOT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION**

WFP continues to refuse mediation and has not contacted the Mediators since January 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Western continues to mistakenly believe that public pressure on government to intervene, will force a binding contract. Government intervention would give WFP the opportunity to achieve a contracting out concession that they can't attain at the bargaining table.**

**The Local Union does not believe government will intervene in this strike, as they know the history of the damage done in 2004 when the BC Liberal Government intervened.** They know that by doing so, government would only be benefiting WFP and that it would be seen as taking sides. Government has been clear that they believe the best way for the parties to reach a Collective Agreement is at the bargaining table. We support their non-intervention stance, which will allow the parties to focus on bargaining.

The Local Union responded to the perceived public pressure from local governments by offering to meet with Mayors and Councils (especially those in more forest-dependent communities) to explain the serious issues our members are facing and why we believe WFP is refusing to bargain.

The Local Union has held a number of these meetings to date, with more to come. We asked local governments if they would support the workers right to not be subjected to unsafe shifts, to not have their jobs contracted out, and to the right to dignity and fairness in WFP's drug and alcohol policy which targets workers and stands apart from all other forest industry companies in BC.

We asked the local governments to write the Premier and ask that the provincial government not intervene in this private sector, non-essential service dispute. We were very happy with their responses. **It has become very clear that the vast majority of Mayors and Councils do not want government to intervene in any way.** They, like us, just want the parties at the bargaining table and for us to reach an agreement soon. **Our Bargaining Committee will continue to be available every day for mediation, but it requires WFP to attend. As of today, they remain silent.**

## 2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #44 – January 24, 2020 *(continued)*

**NOTE:** A former WFP negotiator was recently heard saying in a public place that WFP does not have a contracting out concession on the table. This was a false and uninformed statement. WFP still has its Union busting contracting out concession on the table. Contracting out is the very issue that WFP has stated (as recently as January 9<sup>th</sup>) that they must have if they are to agree to meet. This remains a ridiculous position to take when they know full well that the Union will not agree to any concession, especially one that completely undermines our members' job security and the communities they live in.



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**Brian Butler – President, USW Local 1-1937**

**Phone: (250)746-6131 Fax: 250-746-1012**

**USW Local 1-1937 Offices: Duncan, Port Alberni, Courtenay, Port McNeill, and Burnaby**

**Website: [www.usw1-1937.ca](http://www.usw1-1937.ca)**

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**Facebook: [usw1-1937](https://www.facebook.com/usw1-1937)**

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