



2020 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

2020 BARGAINING UPDATE #47 – February 4, 2020

Coast Bargaining Committee - News Release

MEDIATORS FRUSTRATED WITH LACK OF MOVEMENT BY WFP

Today, mediators Vince Ready and Amanda Rogers sent a letter to both parties to advise that, following the meetings held Sunday February 2nd (with the bargaining committee for Western Forest Products) and February 3rd (with the bargaining committee for USW Local 1-1937), the mediators have withdrawn their services.

The mediators stated in the letter that the parties are too far apart, at this time. It is clear to the USW that WFP's refusal to move off their concessions and change any of their positions led to the frustration of the mediators and their decision to withdraw.

Our bargaining committee was made aware that WFP CEO Don Demens joined WFP's bargaining committee meeting on February 2nd. We learned that Demens repeated to the mediators, WFP's desire to gain concessions on contracting out of our members jobs. This unwarranted concession is something that our members will never agree too. It needs to be noted that without this provision WFP made record earnings in the many years leading up to the current round of bargaining.

Rick Nelson, 1st Vice President of USW Local 1-1937 stated: "It is truly unfortunate that WFP has put corporate greed over our members' right to have safe and secure jobs. It is clear to the Union that WFP's refusal to move on a single issue dating back to November is at the centre of the mediators' withdrawal".

WFP's contracting out and other concessions are added to their repeated refusal to address our members serious health and safety issues related to WFP's fatigue inducing alternate shifts. As well WFP continues to insist on subjecting workers to a Drug & Alcohol policy that workers strongly believe is discriminatory and stands far apart from the policies adopted by other companies in the forest industry. The combination of these issues we believe will lead to serious injury and death if they are not resolved in bargaining.

Workers have the right to a safe and secure job. This is paramount for any worker and our members are no different. The Union believes that no worker should be subjected to this increased risk of serious injury or death that comes with how WFP schedules and treats its workforce.

Brian Butler, President of USW Local 1-1937 stated: “The Local Union remains prepared and committed to the bargaining process every day and are open to meeting with WFP’s bargaining committee at any time in order to reach a fair collective agreement. The Union will be reaching out to WFP’s new bargaining committee to see if they will agree to resume bargaining”.



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