



2024 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-1937 UPDATE

BARGAINING UPDATE #4 – May 31, 2024

COAST BARGAINING COMMITTEE USES WFP BARGAINING DATES TO OPEN BARGAINING WITH WFP CONTRACTOR BARGAINING ON THEIR OWN

The Union has been bargaining with WFP's bargaining team since our first meeting on April 5th. While we have come to agreement on a number of language issues, we remain significantly apart on issues related to Union Security, Wages, Benefits, Term, and other language issues.

While a large number of WFP contractors have signed a WFP Me-Too Letter which lets them adopt the results bargained between the USW and WFP, roughly a dozen or so contract companies have notified the Union they wish to bargain with the Union on their own. Bargaining with so many others while trying to conclude a Collective Agreement with WFP is very time-consuming and costly and in the end, is not beneficial for any of the Parties involved.

The number of contractors seeking to bargain directly with the Local Union has significantly risen from previous bargaining years. In bargaining with WFP to date, they have not supported having these contract companies sign a Me-Too letter between the USW-WFP.

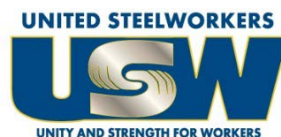
This is despite the fact, that by not signing a Me-Too letter and increasing the number of bargaining tables, these contractors allow for a greater chance of having an uneven cost structure when bidding, which is the opposite of what they have always advocated for, that is to have a level playing field for all contractors, by having the same terms and conditions when bidding. It also leaves Western Forest Products Inc. with more chance of labour instability, as there will be multiple bargaining tables for workers on their tenure.

Because bargaining with WFP has significantly slowed down, your Bargaining Committee has withdrawn from our next five scheduled bargaining dates with them, so that we can better utilize our time, by opening bargaining with the increased number of WFP contractors and other Independent Companies.

It is our hope that when we next meet with WFP, they come to recognize the importance of our members' monetary and non-monetary proposals, including how they help their own business.

Our bargaining to date has only been with WFP, so we will be speaking to our leadership from those operations early next week.

Your Bargaining Committee remains committed to achieving the best Collective Agreement possible for our members on the BC Coast.



Issued on behalf of your Bargaining Committee Members, Brian Butler – President, Richard Arnason – 2nd Vice President, Chris Cinkant – 3rd Vice President, Jason Cox – Recording Secretary, Nolan Paquette – Warden.

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