

2023 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

Update #5 – July 17, 2023

CONIFER group fails to get any traction in bargaining talks with USW

Your USW Bargaining Committee met with the Conifer group of companies July 10 and 11 in Prince George BC for our third meeting with industry in hopes of moving bargaining along to achieving a fair and progressive new collective agreement for our members.

The USW Bargaining Committee spent considerable time and energy going through our lengthy agenda and proposals and identifying the key issues. We anticipated the same from the employer. Save for some very small edits, the industry's position on a number of concessionary items has changed very little.

Forestry employers are still seeking: a reduced rate for probationary employees, greater flexibility for alternative shifting, significant benefit cost shifting from the employer to the employees. Industry is still looking to eliminate the annual floating holiday for members.

What Happens Next?

Dates with the employer associations in August have been scheduled to resume from the 8-11 in Prince George but unless the employer is prepared to take a serious attempt at getting a deal and removing their concessions, your committee will attempt to schedule bargaining sessions with the independent operations with West Fraser (Fraser Lake; Quesnel Plywood; Williams Lake Plywood; 100 Mile Lumber) and Canfor (Plateau; Polar and Chetwynd) to gauge the appetite to bargain a new collective agreement. Failing that, the IFLRA in BC's South is scheduled for bargaining the week of August 14-18.

At the bargaining table for the USW: Brian O'Rourke—1-2017; Marty Gibbons—1-417; Pat McGregor—1-423; Grant Farquhar—1-405; Jeff Bromley—Wood Council Chair; Shawn Harris—USW Evaluator. The USW Coast Locals—1-1937 and 2009—collective agreements expire in 2024. Both will support the BC Interior locals in pursuit of a new, improved collective agreement for our members.

We would like to thank all of our members for your continued support

MARTY GIBBONS CRSP, CEBS, CRM, PRESIDENT, 250-319-2844

JORDAN LAWRENCE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, 250-318-7668

JOIN THE LOCAL TEXT BLAST LIST SEND AN EMAIL OR CALL:

steel1417@telus.net Office: (250) 554-3167

