

2023 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

Update #10 – November 3, 2023

Song remains the same as West Fraser follows Conifer and refuses to provide wage offer; USW files complaint with BCLRB

The USW BC Interior Bargaining Committee met with West Fraser—Fraser Lake Sawmill in Fraser Lake, BC on October 24, 2023.

Similar to the pattern approach elsewhere with Conifer and the IFLRA, along with the Canfor independents in Local 1-2017, West Fraser received the USW's revised bargaining agenda that had been focused on core issues developed through previous bargaining meetings.

While there was some indication that West Fraser was willing to provide a monetary counter to the USW's proposal, at the end of the day they decided to remain in lockstep with Conifer and would not table monetary until the USW further trims our bargaining agenda and agrees to their concessions. The USW disagreed.

Still outstanding from the employer:

- Refusal to add Truth and Reconciliation Day to the list of Statutory Holidays.
- Deletion of the Floater
- Deletion of SHARP
- Further restrictions on health and welfare benefits with few improvements
- The addition of another schedule alternate shift schedule to approved alternate shifts.

The employer will not address our key proposals:

- Addition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to stat holiday list
- Vision Care to \$600/24 months
- Shift Differential to \$0.60/hour
- Addition of five paid sick days to agreement
- Addition of a boot allowance
- Pension increase
- Wage increase

The USW Bargaining Committee, following guidance from legal, has begun the process of filing a bad faith bargaining complaint with the BC Labour Relations Board with CONIFER and the IFLRA. The USW is also currently looking for dates to continue bargaining with West Fraser independents in Local 1-2017, Quesnel Plywood (Q-Ply); Williams Lake Plywood and 100-Mile Lumber sawmill. Once those dates are set, we will go through a similar process with those three operations.

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

