

# 2023 Forest Industry Bargaining

## USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

Update #12 – March 11, 2024

### **BARGAINING RESUMES AFTER BC LABOUR BOARD APPOINTS MEDIATOR IN RESPONSE TO USW UNFAIR BARGAINING COMPLAINT**

After CONIFER and the IFLRA refused to respond to our Wage proposal in 2023, your USW Bargaining Committee filed bad-faith bargaining complaints with the BC Labour Relations Board (BCLRB) against the IFLRA (South) and CONIFER (North). Under the BC Labour Relations Code, both parties must bargain in good faith and work towards concluding a collective agreement.

The BCLRB Vice Chair assigned to our complaints instructed Labour Board Mediator Dave Schaub to contact both parties and attempt to resume Bargaining. Your USW Bargaining Committee communicated to the Mediator that to continue the bargaining process, the employers must respond to our wage proposal or we will proceed with our bad faith bargaining complaint.

Your USW committee has committed and agreed to return to the table with Mediator Schaub and resume bargaining to conclude a fair collective agreement for our members. Dates are set for April 8, 9 and 10th in Prince George. While returning to the bargaining table is encouraging, the USW committee remains cautious about the employer's agenda. In addition to refusing to provide a wage proposal, IFLRA and CONIFER's last proposals contained significant concessions. If this remains unchanged, your USW committee will review and consider all options moving forward.

**WE WANT TO THANK ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SOLIDARITY!**

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