

2023 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

Update #19 – July 29, 2024

Locals 1-405, 1-417, and 1-423 in the Southern Interior will Return to the Table

Following a strong 94% strike vote mandate by the membership of Locals 1-405 Cranbrook/Kootenays, 1-417 Kamloops/Thompson, and 1-423 Kelowna/Okanagan, the USW Bargaining Committee has agreed to return to the IFLRA table on August 20-21.

Bargaining sessions in Prince George with Conifer on July 17-18 did not prove fruitful in making more gains in the wage package originally presented by the IFLRA in June.

The Northern Local decided it was a package they would take back to the membership there for a vote in August. The Southern Interior locals disagreed, and given the fact that the Southern locals are still facing concessions in the form of expanded relief supervisor days and removing the Union's ability to select an alternate shift in Supplement 8—giving the employer complete control over which shift is implemented—the Southern locals have rejected the package still on the table in the South and will attempt to bargain a fair deal for the membership there August 20-21.

The Northern local wasn't faced with concessions similar to those of the Southern locals.

The Southern locals also believe that the employer's wage offer does not meet the needs of our members.

The Southern locals represent members at Canfor (Radium/Elko), Tolko (Armstrong; Lumby; Heffley Creek) Interfor, Pacific Wood Tech, Stella Jones, Galloway, Atco, Weyerhaeuser and Canoe.

While a positive strike mandate has been expressed by the membership, the next steps will be to attempt again to find a deal. Failing that, a decision on issuing strike notice will be made and communicated to the membership.

Please follow your respective locals on social media and bulletins or contact the local offices for any information.

Fighting for a Fair Agreement!

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