

2023 Forest Industry Bargaining

USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

Update #7 – August 18, 2023

After Slow Progress, IFLRA Employers, Unprepared to Respond

The USW BC Interior Bargaining Committee met with the Interior Forest Labour Relations Association (IFLRA) in Kelowna for four days August 14-17. Although movement has been made on some of our members' needs, even minor progress has been extremely slow and challenging.

The USW Bargaining Committee made significant attempts to address the employer's "core issues" on Apprenticeships and Alternate Shifts however advised them that the existing Relief Supervisor language was more than sufficient. Regrettably despite our hard work at the bargaining table, the IFLRA employers would not respond to our last proposal, citing a need for the USW to further address their 'core issues' before they would address any of our members' needs. It is concerning that the IFLRA would take this position despite after four months the IFLRA has not provided us with a proposal on Wage Increases.

In addition to their "core issues" the IFLRA continues to demand several concerning concessions including but not limited to; deletion of Floating Holiday, cost shifting benefit costs from the Employer to you, greater employer control over shifting, significantly increase the use of exonerated supervisors without loss of seniority and more.

Your USW committee is committed to achieving a fair collective agreement effected members can vote on. Concluding a fair agreement will require the IFLRA companies to get serious, return to the bargaining table and respond to our last proposal.

While we wait for the IFLRA to return to the bargaining table, dates have been requested for the four West Fraser and three Canfor independent operations in Local 1-2017 and bring the Provincial Committee together in Vancouver August 21 to discuss options.

In Solidarity Local 1-417

As always Contact Marty or Jordan at the numbers below if you have questions. (We would like to Thank our 2nd Vice President Mike Iaccino for assisting at the table this week)

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