



UNITED STEELWORKERS - LOCAL 1-2017

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USW Bargaining Committee await BC Labour Relations Board complaint to be heard

The USW Bargaining Committee has filed simultaneous complaints with the BC Labour Relations Board on the IFLRA (South) and Conifer (North) for bad faith bargaining under BC's Labour Code for failure to offer a wage component in bargaining after multiple bargaining sessions in May, June, July and again in September and October.

Those complaints are in the submission stage and awaiting full responses from the employer associations to which the union will reply.

Following completion of that process, expected in mid-January, the Bargaining Committee is hopeful the BCLRB will order the employer association to return to the bargaining table with a wage offer.

While the employer associations maintain that the USW bargaining proposals remain too extensive in cost for the employer associations to table a wage offer, the USW Bargaining Committee disagrees and maintains that full agendas in bargaining must be exchanged. Withholding wage offers hampers any ability to find common ground on proposals.

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/SAFER (forest/mill worker safety programs designed to help keep workers safe)
- Further restrictions on health and welfare benefits with few improvements
- The addition of another schedule alternate shift schedule to approved alternate shifts. (Conifer)
- Less restrictive language in proposing or changing alternate shifts on short notice (IFLRA—South)
- Increase to exonerated amount of days (from 88, currently) to Relief Supervisors
- Refusal to add a wage proposal

The employer will not address our key proposals:

- Addition of 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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Members!