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Local103 | Canada

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ONTC Lock Out of Unifor Members now Unavoidable

(North Bay) – Unifor Local 103 met with Ontario Northland Transportation Commission today in two bargaining sessions. They were joined by Federal Mediation and Conciliation Officer (FMCS) assigned to these negotiations.

“We presented a comprehensive proposal we were confident satisfied the company’s five key items that they identified in mid-September. We met them half way on each of their items” said Andy Mitchell, Local 103 President.

Earlier this week the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) declared the action of the ONTC/Government in locking out our members on Wednesday morning was unlawful. While this does not prevent the lock out from occurring, the union contended this was vindication and exposed the company’s overly aggressive approach in this round of negotiations.

“This dispute is not about money. The ONTC has an open vault authorized by the Wynne government to attack our members and their families. They claim their last offer matches other agreements and nothing could be further from the truth. This is about the Wynne government wanting to create a workplace where the company is staffed only with a few administrators and everyone in the workplace is a low wage contract worker. Wasteful spending on consultants, lawyers and now scab contractors continues without restraint.” added Mitchell

Earlier this week, a disgruntled manager provided Unifor with details of the secret deal the ONTC had bargained with another union in June. That deal provided for increases of 6.5% in 2015 and another 2% starting January 1, 2016.

“Our proposals at best matched the industry we work in. We asked ONTC/Government again to agree to send any outstanding matters to binding arbitration and their response to this was *“this is an all or nothing proposition and we are all done here”* and then they left the room” concluded Mitchell

Unifor Local 103 represents approximately 350 ONTC employees working in clerical, on-board service, stores, shops and Cochrane Station Inn at various locations across Northern Ontario.

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