

Local 101R and CP Rail Bargaining Update

Sisters and brothers,

In the most recent RailLine, Local 101R bargaining committee reported that they had met with CP Rail in the afternoon of Monday January 12th joined by the appointed Conciliation officers. They would not reconvene again until the afternoon of Friday January 16th when the company returned to present a “streamed down” version of their initial demands. In essence, the corporation reformatted their demands into two separate documents, advising that a third document in relation to work rules concessions they are demanding for Weston Shops, would be forthcoming. The corporation’s proposal varied little and continues to amount to significant concessions in length of agreement, contract language, work rules, skilled trades, seniority, benefits and pensions etc.

In addition, CP Rail advised, in a veiled warning fashion, that they are now undertaking a review of their operation at Weston Shops with the purpose of determining, not how to bring in work as they intended in October, but to review which parts of the operation they might keep functioning and what operations they might wind down.

This is a rather disappointing but certainly not an unexpected reaction from this corporation when they are being challenged. Our members have already stated they will not be intimidated by this administration by accepting concessions and the full weight of the union will be standing up for our members, not only at Weston, but across the country.

As reported at the membership information meetings, the union will be in meetings with the corporation’s labour relations representatives this week in Calgary, in grievance resolve meetings.

The union has offered further bargaining dates to CP Rail, February 2 to 6 and 9 to 14, 2015 however confirmation and the logistics for those sessions continue to remain outstanding since December 8, 2014.

In closing the Bargaining Committee remain determined, despite numerous obstacles, to reach a settlement without a dispute. CP Rail has to recognize that workers in this corporation absolutely deserve to be treated with dignity and respect on the shop floor and have every right to share in the success in this company. Our members are in no mood to accept concessions from the employer.

CP, CN and CNTL National Strike Coordinator Conference Call

We will be arranging two national conference calls later this week with Unifor Strike and Defence Fund staff. One call will include the Local 101R National Strike Coordinator Garry Vandebossche and the various location picket captains and the second will be with Local 100 National Strike Coordinator Chris Garrod and Council 4000 National Strike Coordinator Mark Robinson and the picket captains in various locations. Details will follow in an upcoming RailLine.

We would ask our membership not to listen to rumours or innuendos and we will be communicating to our members on the ongoing status of bargaining. If you have not already done so, please sign up for RailLine by sending your email address to rail@unifor.org and follow us on twitter at @Unifor_RailLine.

In appreciation and solidarity,

Local 101RBargaining Committee – Local 100 Bargaining Committee – National Council 4000 Bargaining Committee