

CN plans to lock out its employees

CN issued notice today at 4 p.m. that it would be locking out 4,800 Unifor members as of Monday at 11 p.m. local time. Over five months of negotiations, CN has repeatedly demonstrated that it has no interest in reaching a fair deal for CN workers. This lock-out notice is deeply disrespectful of its employees, its customers and the communities where it makes its profits. It is unbelievable that CN would prefer to shutdown operations rather than negotiate a fair contract.

We are urging CN to get back to the bargaining table. It was CN who abruptly halted negotiations on Sunday night, after tabling its one and only economic offer - which did not address any of the expectations of our members. We heard from you at membership meetings and through the pre-bargaining surveys about what you want to see in your new collective agreement. You deserve a decent contract and to be treated with respect by your employer. Unfortunately, neither of these things have happened.

Instead, CN halted negotiations and have since refused to get back to bargaining. CN has grossly misrepresented the situation to our members, to the media and to the public more generally.

We will now begin preparations for a lock-out. The union will be conducting a series of information meetings over the coming days. We will communicate the dates and times as more information becomes available.

Your bargaining committees and every level of leadership within the union has expressed to CN at every opportunity that we want to reach a fair negotiated settlement. We are committed to reaching a new agreement with CN which follows the excellent package established at CP, taking into account the specific issues raised by our members at CN.

We will continue to communicate as the situation changes. Thank you for your ongoing support for your bargaining committees.

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