
Local 101R and CP Rail Bargaining Update

Sisters and brothers,

Local 101R Bargaining Committee would like to once again, thank the membership for their unwavering support and the 97% strike vote. There is no question this will be a difficult round of negotiations to conclude. Our focus obviously will be to reach a settlement without a dispute. CP Rail, as pointed out in prior RailLines, is a strong company with solid revenue and profit and workers have the absolute right to share in that success.

As reported during our cross-Canada membership and strike vote meetings, your Bargaining Committee has been in Calgary this entire week (January 9 to 16, 2015 inclusive) for scheduled negotiations with CP Rail. Federal Conciliation Officers were present for our meeting on Monday, where we formally advised the corporation of our nationwide membership meetings and the results of the strike vote. The committee informed CP Rail that they must unconditionally remove their concessions from the bargaining table and start dealing with the workers' issues which our members have supported through their Lodge and the Local Union bargaining committee.

CP Rail left the bargaining table Monday afternoon advising that they will be reviewing the bargaining items and would be in contact with us for the reconvening of conciliation/negotiation. It was not until late Thursday evening that the corporation advised that they would be available today (Friday) to provide an update to their position. They advised that they will be presenting a "streamed down" overview of their initial demands which indicates little change in the corporation's overall position.

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 remain outstanding.

In closing the Bargaining Committees 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.

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 101R Master Bargaining Committee

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