

CP Rail - Local 101R Bargaining Update

Sisters and brothers,

The Bargaining Committee headed by Unifor Local 101R President Tom Murphy, is in Montreal this week meeting with CP Rail and reports that progress on the union's proposals remains very slow. As we have reported in earlier RailLines, CP Rail is incredibly profitable – it recently reported its 2014 operating and financial results, and it was the best year ever for the railway. Revenues equaled \$6.6 billion (up 8 percent). CP Rail is delivering more freight with fewer people. This is increasingly posing health and safety concerns and more strain on our members, which we are determined to resolve at the bargaining table.

Local 101R Bargaining Committee remains steadfast in fighting back the many concessions CP Rail has on the bargaining table as well as continuing to press the corporation on key union issues, related treatment and representation, skilled trades, benefit improvements, pension plan security, the future of Alyth and Weston shops, and others.

Our current agreement expired on December 31, 2014 and we will be in a legal position to initiate strike action (with 72 hours notice) at 00:01 hours Sunday February 15, 2015. This follows five months of negotiations with CP which began on September 17, 2014 in Calgary, Alberta.

CP workers and our union have been a part of CP Rail's incredible success, and this partnership can continue. But we need to reach a fair negotiated agreement, which we are determined to do. It is our sincere hope to avoid a strike, but this will take willingness on both sides. So far, we have seen very little interest from CP in reaching a deal which could be ratified by our members.

Strike Coordinator Conference Calls

We continue to hold regular nation-wide conference calls with the Strike Captains, Strike Coordinator along with Barb Dolan, Director National Strike and Defence Department, Shannon Devine National Communications and also Unifor Legal Department representatives. The purpose of these calls is to prepare the Strike Captains with the necessary tools, if in fact a dispute does develop. The National Strike Coordinator is Garry Vandebossche, who will be working closely with the Strike Captains and the National Strike & Defence Department. There are many issues that need to be dealt with in preparation for a dispute and the Bargaining Committee wishes to thank those individuals who took on this major responsibility across the country. Another conference call will be scheduled later this week with the Strike Captains and the Coordinators.

We want to underscore again, 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](https://twitter.com/Unifor_RailLine).

In appreciation and solidarity,
CP Rail Master Bargaining Committee

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