
Meeting with Federal Labour Minister, talks pick up with CP Rail

Unifor National President Jerry Dias has joined the bargaining committees in the negotiations with CP and CN now taking place in Montreal.

Federal Minister of Labour Kellie Leitch met with each of the parties this morning individually – CN, CP, the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference and Unifor. Unifor President Jerry Dias, Assistant to the President Bob Orr, National Rail Director Brian Stevens, Council 4000 President Barry Kennedy, Local 100 President Ken Hiatt and Local 101R President Tom Murphy all attended the meeting on behalf of the union.

Unifor urged Leitch not to intervene in the negotiations and reaffirmed our commitment to reaching a new agreement for our 1,800 members at CP and our 4,800 members at CN. It is not clear how the government will respond.

The Unifor Local 101R Master Bargaining Committee, joined by the national union, met with top executives at CP this afternoon where the union pressed for immediate resolutions to the issues surrounding excessive discipline, eroding working conditions, over reliance of contract workers (instead of replacing), future of Weston shop in Winnipeg, along with several other workplace problems. We plan to meet again this evening to work towards solutions and talk serious discussions on an economic package.

Two nation-wide conference calls were held last night. Local 101R local spokespeople and picket captains were provided with information on communicating with local media, in the event of a strike. Local 100 and National Council 4000 National Strike Coordinators and picket captains continue their preparing and planning for picket activity. Although we are focused on getting a new deal before the deadline, the union is fully prepared for a possible strike.

Talks with CN continue, with all committees continuing to meet with the company. Negotiations with CN continue to be frustrating, with little progress being at any of the tables. We will be meeting with CN as often as possible though with the hope of moving discussions along through the weekend.

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.

We will be communicating with the membership and workplace leadership as much as possible as we get closer to the deadline at CP Rail of **Sunday, February 15 at 00:01 hours ET**. We appreciate the members' full support as we continue with this difficult set of negotiations.

In appreciation and solidarity,
Local 100, Local 101R and National Council 4000 Master Bargaining Committees

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