

## VIA RAIL Bargaining Update - National Council 4000

The Unifor National Council 4000 VIA Rail Bargaining Committee continued negotiations with VIA Rail in Montreal the week of February 25th.

The discussions are progressing slowly. However, the bargaining committee was able to get the corporation to move off a few of their contentious demands.

One highlight from bargaining, after much discussion and changes, was an agreement for Locomotive Engineer training for our members. The bargaining committee was able to make significant gains from the initial training program proposed by the corporation. The agreement included, but is not limited to, access for all members to apply for the training; a guarantee the corporation will backfill any positions left vacant, union dues paid to Unifor for all employees in the training, employment security by way of Article 8 notices if jobs are abolished in the future and a review process after one year. Good luck to all those who apply. For complete details of the Locomotive Engineer training agreement please contact your respective Regional Representative.

There are still many work rule issues on the table which must be resolved before we move on to the joint economic proposals with all three collective agreements. The committee will continue work hard to reach a settlement that will meet the needs and expectations of the membership.

The next round of discussions will continue March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 1st in Montreal.

In Solidarity,

Your Unifor National Council 4000 VIA Rail Bargaining Committee

Barry Kennedy, President Council 4000

Danny Andru, Secretary-Treasurer Council 4000

Bob Fitzgerald, National Rep

Myriam Germain National Rep

Bob Orr, Assistant to the National Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Kissack, Regional Rep Prairie

Ron Shore, Regional Rep Mountain

Jennifer Murray, Regional Rep Atlantic

Andrew Stephen, Regional Rep Ontario/Quebec

Mario Laroche, Regional Rep Quebec

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