

April 5, 2007 – Negotiations Update



Main Table

Main table bargaining for the renewal of the BCMEA & ILWU CANADA Collective Agreement began on January 8, 2007. Since that date, some progress has been made with respect to general matters and the narrowing of key issues between the parties.

The BCMEA has made several presentations on our key bargaining objectives in this round of bargaining as well as the industry long range objectives for improving port productivity, eliminating shortages and ensuring that port operations start on time and are not subject to chronic late starts. In addition, a comprehensive presentation was made on settlement trends over the past 12 months.

To date the parties have met 19 times at the main table.

Committee Discussions

During this round of collective bargaining the following Committees have been established:

1. Despatch
2. Lines
3. Checking
4. Vancouver Island
5. Pension Health and Welfare
6. Health and Safety
7. Maintenance & Contracting-out

The Committee model encourages "grass roots" discussion on specific topical issues that are either: issue, sector or industry based. Each Committee is empowered to propose solutions to the issues referred to it for consideration by the industry bargaining committees.

A special sub-committee has been appointed to consider the modernizing of the Vancouver Despatch. That committee is charged with assessing the issues and providing the parties with a report on how to proceed to accomplish this objective. That report is due in early April. Finding a resolution to this issue is fundamental to the achievement of the Associations "Mission" of ensuring that we have the "right people, with the right skills, at the right time, all the time"

As of March 14, 2007, the parties have met a total of 13 times for all sub-committees.

Both parties have committed to additional meeting dates throughout April.

Expiry of Current Collective Agreement

The current Collective Agreement is set to expire at midnight on March 31, 2007. Pursuant to Section 50 b) of the Canada Labour Code agreement's existing terms and conditions of employment will be maintained until a new agreement is entered into or until the parties are in a legal position to strike or lockout. For ease of reference, please find attached a document on outlining the bargaining process and time lines under the Canada Labour Code.

It is important to note that both parties remain cautiously optimistic that a negotiated settlement can be achieved without third party intervention.