



British Columbia
Maritime Employers
Association

Serving the ports of British Columbia

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All Members:

ILWU CANADA (LONGSHORE):

The BCMEA and ILWU CANADA (Longshore) did not meet this week. The parties were scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday however ILWU Canada (Longshore) President and head negotiator Tom Dufresne cancelled planned negotiation dates and informed the Mediators and the BCMEA he would be travelling to Ottawa to respond to BCMEA initiatives. A delegation of ILWU officials travelled to Ottawa to meet with the Liberal Critic(s) for Labour and the Asia Pacific Gateway during the latter half of the week.

The power point presentation Mr. Dufresne presented to Federal Liberal MP's contains many of the same discussion topics as in previous ILWU submissions:

- *"No strike or lock-out for the past 11 years".*

All customers and stakeholders of the Gateway understand the threat of a labour disruption is perhaps more damaging to the Gateway than an actual disruption is. Mr. Dufresne is well aware this is the case.

- *"The ILWU has proposed measures to reduce uncertainty:*

- *Concurrent bargaining*
- *Port customer briefings*
- *Extension of the strike/lockout notice period*
- *Update on the state of bargaining on the web"*

As Mr Dufresne is aware, the above does little or nothing to alleviate Gateway customer uncertainty. The ILWU has refused to enter into a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the BCMEA on the issue of "concurrent bargaining", as such, no formal understanding that binds the parties exists. Customer briefings and web updates do little to address the concerns of customers in the US and overseas. An extension of the strike/lockout notice period will not satisfy the timing concerns of large complex global supply chains and again the ILWU head negotiator is well aware this is the case.

- *"Proposals to make the waterfront more attractive to women have stalled"*

Once again, the ILWU is aware the BCMEA's Human Rights Complaint on behalf of working women on the waterfront has been accepted by the Human Rights Commission. This historic complaint has been accepted by the Commission and an investigator has been assigned. All of this is designed to make the waterfront more attractive to women by attempting to ensure traditional barriers to success have been removed and on-the-job harassment of female ILWU workers by male ILWU members is eliminated.

A recent proposal to the parties by mediators Hughes and Rooney has been characterized as follows:

- *"Mediators have proposed "rolling over" the current terms and conditions for a period of 3 years and establishing a commission of industrial inquiry"*

In stark contrast to this presentation item, the BCMEA understands the mediators proposal to be:

- *"Extend the current Collective Agreement" (no definitive term suggested by the mediators, anticipated term - 1 year)*

- *"Appointment of an Industrial Inquiry Commission under Section 108" (of the Canada Labour Code)*

- *"Terms of reference*

To investigate and report on issues pertaining to the function of the Collective Bargaining relationship between the Parties with the objective of making improvements in that relationship and enhancement of the productivity in the longshore industry within the current jurisdiction of the Parties at Canada's Westcoast ports"

From the BCMEA's perspective, the net result of this proposed process would be to delay collective bargaining for an extended period of time only to have the parties return to bargaining facing the same issues before them today. Of additional importance, the full ILWU membership would need to approve all proposed contract extensions through the usual voting mechanism(s).

The BCMEA remains committed to participating in the mediation process under Hughes and Rooney and sincerely hopes the ILWU will commit their attendance to future scheduled dates.

The parties are now scheduled to meet as follows:

May 25, 26, 27, and 28

June 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24 and 25

FOREMEN (LOCAL 514):

The BCMEA and Local 514 did not meet this week due to scheduled meetings with the ILWU CANADA (Longshore) bargaining committee.

The parties are scheduled to meet as follows:

May 18, 19, and 20

June 15, 16, 17, 29, and 30

Further up-dates will be communicated weekly or as significant events unfold.

Regards,

Greg Vurdela
BCMEA

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