



'Four years of peace' as forest deal is endorsed

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An overwhelming majority of union members working for Western Forest Products Ltd. have voted to accept a new four-year collective agreement.

United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 announced yesterday that 82.4 per cent of the membership had approved the proposals in a referendum.

USW Local president Darrel Wong said it would lead to four years of industrial peace.

"There are signs that the coastal forest industry is emerging from a prolonged crisis, and hopefully in four years' time our membership will be able to benefit from a healthy forest industry," he added.

The collective agreement covers wages, benefits, union security and severance pay for permanent partial closures in both logging and manufacturing. The union said it had not expected to make major wage gains in the present climate, but believed it had achieved the objectives of opposing concessions and securing important improvements to the wording of contracts.

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