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Done Deal - Workers Ratify Contract With Canfor

By 250 News

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 04:00 AM



Prince George, B.C.- The United Steelworkers Local 1-424 have ratified a new contract with Canfor. The package covers those workers employed by Canfor's 15 operations in the southern and northern interior.



The ratification vote was completed late yesterday on the four year deal which provides for wage increases of 0, 0, 2 and 2 % over the term of the agreement.

The agreement also carries some innovative "investments" by the workers. The union workers have agreed to defer a floating holiday, boxing day, and reduce their vacation pay by 3% until the lumber industry returns to good health or December 31st of 2011, whichever comes first. Once that happens, the deferred items will be returned. The savings amount to about \$1.50 per hour per employee.



The agreement also provides profit sharing based on the positive performance of the Solid Wood division of Canfor. When the division is showing a certain level of profitability, the workers could receive a bonus that ranges from \$140 dollars to a maximum of \$1,000.

The package also provides for unique seniority protection. Under the agreement, seniority is protected for the length of the contract. That means anyone who was laid off in July of 2009 will be on the recall list for a full four years instead of the 24 months under the previous agreement. This will give protection to those on the job, and to those who were laid off since July of last year.

There is a trades adjustment which will see the first instalment of 50 cents an hour added as of today, and a further 50 cents an hour to be added July 1st of 2011.

The agreement also allows for payment of tuition and text books for apprentices, provides a medical travel plan, life insurance, permanent/partial closure language and significant safety language. Local 1-424 President Frank

Everitt says the safety language is a joint effort to eliminate injury and illness on the worksite.

This agreement is to be the pattern for other forest industry contracts in the province. Local 1-424 President Frank Everitt says the talks begin today in Kelowna with the Interior Forests Labour Relations Association which represents several forestry companies in the southern interior.

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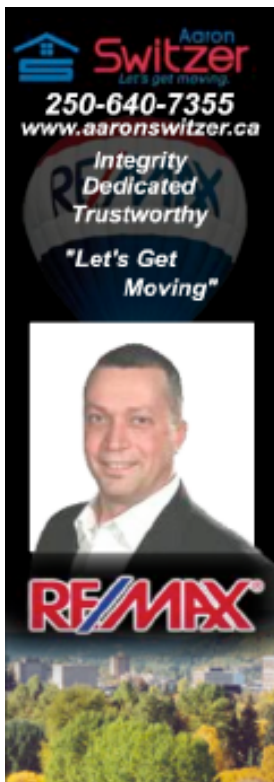
Posted by: Mercenary on March 10 2010 6:28 AM

oooofff!! At least they are trying to make a go of it. My former employer just shut the doors, lock, stock, and barrel. There was no talk of wage concessions.

Posted by: Andyfreeze on March 10 2010 7:29 AM

Ouch...shades of things to come.


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