

This article can be found at:

<http://www.usw.ca/program/content/6516.php>



[Print Page](#)

12 MAY 2010 - Coastal Bargaining Committee Meeting With Western Forest Products Today

12 MAY 2010 - Coastal Bargaining Committee Meeting With Western Forest Products Today

NANAIMO, BC – Today the United Steelworkers Coastal Bargaining Committee is meeting here with Western Forest Products to negotiate a new collective agreement with the coast's largest employer.

At the table for the union are committee spokesperson Bob Matters (chair of the USW Wood Council), Local 1-1937 president Darrel Wong, Local 1-85 president Dave Steinhauer, and Local 2009 president Manjit Sidhu.

On May 5 both sides met to exchange bargaining proposals, after previously agreeing to a protocol for negotiations.

The current Coast Master Agreement, which was finalized after a three-month strike in 2007, will expire on June 15, 2010. WFP then belonged to the employer association, Forest Industrial Relations (FIR).

Some of the key demands in the union's proposals include contract language improvements for permanent and partial plant closures and better severance provisions. The union is also demanding improvement to seniority retention and tough union security language as well as general wage and trades rate adjustments.

Brother Matters says the union hopes to set a pattern agreement with Western, which it can take to the bargaining table with FIR and other coastal employers.