

Mediation delays Steelworkers' job action in B.C.'s Southern Interior forests

(The Canadian Press) – 8 hours ago

BURNABY, B.C. — Five-thousand members of the United Steelworkers Union are in a legal strike position at a dozen forest companies in B.C.'s southern Interior.

The workers have voted overwhelmingly in favour of job action against the companies represented by the Interior Forest Labour Relations Association.

But Steelworkers wood council chairman Bob Matters says the two sides have requested mediation, with talks set for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

That prevents any strike or lockout until two days after either side asks the mediator to book out, pushing any job action to the end of the week at the earliest.

Affected workers have been without a contract since July 1, 2009 and the union says the management association is refusing to accept a pattern agreement that has been adopted by forest companies across other regions of B.C.

IFLRA represents forest companies in the Thompson-Nicola, Okanagan and Kootenay regions. (CHNL)

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