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Vernon News

Forestry Workers Take Strike Vote

24-hundred members, including around 650 at Tolko have held a strike ballot.

Kate Bouey
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Forestry workers in the southern interior should know Friday whether or not they're going out on strike. About 24-hundred workers have spent the past two weeks casting ballots in response to outstanding contract issues with employers, including Tolko Industries. Workers at Tolko mills in Armstrong, Lumby and Kelowna are among those who've voted. (USW Local 1-405) Union spokesperson Bruce Gardner says the contract should have been resolved by now, especially with the lumber market picking up.

He says one outstanding issue concerns alternate shift language, a matter that's been settled up north. Gardner says salary issues have been resolved.

Tolko's export sales manager, John Langley, is off to China this Sunday on BC's latest trade mission there. Jobs, Tourism and Innovation Minister Pat Bell is leading the five-day mission to show China's housing industry the green benefits of building with wood. Fifteen senior executives from other BC lumber companies will also be on the trip.



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