

# CO-OP BARGAINING

## USW LOCAL 1-417

October 5th, 2011 Update # 21

### Federated Co-op Steelworkers Overwhelmingly Endorse New Collective Agreement

United Steelworkers from both the Federated Co-op Sawmill and Plywood plant turned up in strength and overwhelmingly voted to accept a new collective agreement that can only be described as Industry Pattern PLUS.

The Forest Industry pattern agreement alone provided significant gains for Forest workers in BC. In addition to the Industry Pattern, Co-op USW members will also receive significant retroactive pay and a \$500 signing bonus at ratification and again in 2013.

The new Collective will see Partial Closure Severance amounting to almost 1 million dollars paid to former Sawmill Employees. Employees who remained on the Sawmill Seniority list at the beginning of this agreement but have since lost their seniority retention will qualify for the Severance. It is our hope this much needed money will provide closure and assist these former employees move forward with their lives

Although the Sawmill has not operated for almost 4 years the Union members have not been forgotten. The support of the Plywood membership for their laid off brothers and sisters at the Sawmill was admirable. Federated Co-op must also be commended for working together with the Union to find a compromise to this issue. Although it is not all the Union had desired it is a fair solution

This agreement was only possible because of the Solidarity demonstrated by all the United Steelworkers from the Canoe Division. This is your collective agreement and you are the reason we got it. I would like to thank Brian Lund, Karen Wilson and Jason Lund who faithfully represented their fellow employees at the bargaining table through thick and thin.

It has been an honour being your spokesman during this round of bargaining

In Solidarity

*Marty Gibbons*

*President USW 1-417*

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