

BC COAST USW WOOD COUNCIL 2010



BARGAINING BULLETIN #6

June 24, 2010

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS

On Friday July 23rd, your USW BC Coast Bargaining Committee signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Western Forest Products and the Bargaining Committee will be recommending that the membership accept this agreement in ratification votes held over the coming days.

Over the duration of the expired 2007-2010 collective agreement, Western Forest Products lost in excess of \$200 million dollars—a direct result of economic factors that were rooted in the US recession, a failed Softwood Lumber Agreement, and failed forestry policies in here in British Columbia.

As a result, many USW members suffered great economic pain and hardships with many losing their livelihood; and there is no immediate recovery coming. Despite all that, your Bargaining Committee reached an agreement that will position Western Forest Products to weather the storm and focus on reviving their business.

Details of the agreement will be provided by Locals 1-1937 and 1-85 to their members in the coming days.

In general terms, the 4-year agreement enhances job security, improves the Health and Welfare benefits, stabilizes the LTD plan, re-builds Preferential Hire provisions, and greatly improves Permanent Partial Closure language. In addition to a signing bonus and wage increases in the 3rd and 4th years, trades rates have received a significant adjustment.

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