

BC INTERIOR

USW WOOD COUNCIL 2009

BARGAINING BULLETIN #31

March 12, 2010

USW WILL CONTINUE FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH IFLRA IN KELOWNA

The BC Interior Bargaining Committee has completed three days of face-to-face bargaining with the Interior Forest Labour Relations Associations (IFLRA) in Kelowna.

The Canfor collective agreement — recently ratified by USW members in three Steelworkers local unions in both the northern and southern interior regions of BC — was proposed to the IFLRA this week as the solution to assist them with the expected recovery of the forest industry. The BC Interior Bargaining Committee intends use this ratified agreement as a template to craft a unique IFLRA agreement that will address the employer association's issues and concerns in a fair and equitable manner.

The IFLRA represents a number of major southern interior companies such as Tolko Industries Limited, Tembec Inc., and Weyerhaeuser Canada Limited. United Steelworker members employed by these companies — and a number of other smaller southern interior enterprises — have been without a collective agreement since June 30, 2009.

Bargaining with the IFLRA is scheduled to continue in Kelowna over the next few weeks.

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