

BC INTERIOR

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USW & CONIFER BARGAIN TENTATIVE DEAL

After a period of time away from the bargaining table, the USW BC Interior Bargaining Committee (USW) and the Council on Northern Interior Forest Employment Relations (CONIFER) resumed talks last week and have today, concluded a tentative agreement.

The USW maintained our goal of bringing the Interior Pattern Agreement to their members in Northern BC. This Agreement contains all the gains made in prior bargaining, without the “Canfor Investment Model”.

While details of the agreement won't be released until the BC Interior Bargaining Committee has had an opportunity to first discuss the tentative agreement with their northern interior members, a quick overview of the tentative agreement reveals a 4-year agreement that greatly enhances job security, improved Health and Welfare benefits, the overdue stabilization of the Forest Industry LTD Plan, and union security provisions that significantly improve contract language surrounding the permanent and/or partial closure of lumber manufacturing operations.

In addition to 2% wage increases in the 3rd and 4th years, a trades rate adjustments reflects the needs of the Union and Industry. A profit pay plan may provide additional compensation as the industry recovers.

The Bargaining Committee is pleased with the outcome, and is recommending the membership ratify this tentative agreement.

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