

BC INTERIOR

USW WOOD COUNCIL 2009

BARGAINING BULLETIN #46

April 19, 2011

STEELWORKERS STAND BY PATTERN PARTIES MEET IN MEDIATION

Interior Forest Labour Relations Association (IFLRA) and the United Steelworkers (USW) have accepted the appointment of BC Labour Relations Board Mediator Mark Atkinson to assist with possible settlement solutions. The latest round of talks stalled late last week which prompted the Parties to request some help from the BC Labour Relations Board who assigned the file to Mr. Atkinson.

Mark Atkinson joined the Labour Relations Board as a Mediator in 1995 and moved on to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services as a Mediator in 2004. Mark was also employed by the Interior Health Authority as the Associate Director of Human Resources prior to going into a private mediation/arbitration practice for three years. Mark rejoined the Board in January 2008.

Mr. Atkinson has called the Parties to the Labour Relations Board office in Vancouver for a meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 9:30am, and scheduled an additional meeting for Wednesday, April 20th if needed.

Although the United Steelworkers have served the IFLRA with 72-hours strike notice in the southern interior, any kind of job action or lock-out by either Party is prohibited until the mediation has been completed.

USW Locals in Cranbrook, Kamloops and Kelowna have been without a collective agreement in the southern interior since July 1, 2009.

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