

# **BC INTERIOR**

## **USW WOOD COUNCIL 2009**

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### ***STEELWORKERS RATIFY 4-YEAR DEAL WITH IFLRA IN BC SOUTHERN INTERIOR***

United Steelworkers (USW) members employed by Interior Forest Labour Relations Association (IFLRA) member companies in the BC southern interior have ratified a four-year collective agreement, retroactive to July 1, 2009.

Members in Steelworkers Local 1-405 Cranbrook, Local 1-417 Kamloops and Local 1-423 Kelowna voted in majority favour of the agreement that was reached on April 21, 2011.

The agreement provides union members with enhanced job security language that finally addresses the exclusion of working foreman from bargaining unit work, improved contract language surrounding permanent and/or partial closure of manufacturing operations, and a long-overdue trades rate adjustment for Tradesmen and Power Engineers.

The IFLRA-USW agreement builds on the pattern items that were negotiated in earlier rounds of bargaining when the union concluded deals with Canadian Forest Products, West Fraser and Council on Northern Interior Forest Employment Relations.

The IFLRA pattern agreement—like other deals in the Interior—provide USW members with wage increases of 2 percent in years 3 and 4, protects the members' Long Term Disability Plan and includes strong health and safety language. Improved life insurance and medical travel coverage are also part of the settlement as well as assistance for apprentices.

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