

2018 Forestry Industry Bargaining USW LOCAL 1-417 UPDATE

2018 Forestry

Bargaining Update #24

January 4, 2019

Canfor Independents Bargaining Dates Set; IFLRA asks USW to Return to the Table

Prior to the break, Canfor, representing the three northern mills – Chetwynd, Polar and Plateau – applied to the BC Labour Relations Board for a ruling on the USW's recent strike vote of 95% among the three mills that the strike vote and 72-hour notice was illegal.

All three mills were held out of the respective associations prior to bargaining commencing – CONIFER in the North and the IFLRA in the South – while seven other Canfor plants (Elko (Woodlands), Radium, Vavenby, Prince George Sawmill/Chip Plant, Isle Pierre, Houston and Fort St. John) are part of the two associations bargaining with the USW.

As a result of the BC LRB application, a mediated settlement was agreed to that outlined the following:

- the Strike Vote taken by the USW at the three Canfor sites was legal
- dates would be set for the two parties to bargain for the three mills
- no job action by either party would take place until bargaining had occurred.

Canfor has agreed to meet with the USW Bargaining Committee on January 8 in Chetwynd and on January 23 for Plateau and Polar.

Over the holiday break, representatives from the IFLRA reached out to the USW Bargaining Committee to return to the bargaining table. While no commitments as to the respective positions of the two parties have been made, both have agreed to return to the table face-to-face for up to three days on January 15, 16 and 17, 2019 in Kelowna.

Unionized members of both CONIFER and the IFLRA remain in legal strike position.

Your USW Bargaining Committee remains committed to achieving a fair deal for the membership.

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