



# Steelworkers, Local 1-424

*Serving the Northern Interior of British Columbia*

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March 7, 2017

## MEMBERS OF USW LOCAL 1-424 WOLVERINE EMPLOYEES

As most of you know we have been in a constant struggle since the mine closed in 2014 to secure the money that is owed to you. In April of 2014, we filed a complaint on your behalf to the Labour Relations Board claiming that the Employer, Walter Energy, failed to give the United Steelworkers proper notice of the closure. Section 54 of the Labour Relations Code states the Employer must give sixty (60) days notice if it intends to introduce a measure, policy practice or change that effects the terms, condition or security of employment of a significant number of employees to whom a Collective Agreement applies and as you well know, they did not. We have been successful and the Labour Board has ruled that Walter Energy was in violation of Section 54. But, Walter Energy then appealed the matter to the courts, which in turn delays any payment.

We then approached the Labour Board and asked them to have Walter Energy put \$1.9 million dollars "In Trust" for you in the event the Company went into Bankruptcy Protection. The Board responded with an order for Walter Energy to put \$770,000 in trust for you, which is being held by our law firm in a trust account.

Last year, we asked the Court for permission to pay out the \$770,000, on a pro-rated basis, to all Members who were owed money as a result of the Section 54 and unfortunately the request was denied.

We are currently in the process of making the request again which is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and we are hopeful that this time our request will be granted. We know this will not be a lot of money but we believe it is very important to get this pro-rated amount to everyone that has money owed to them as soon as possible.

Furthermore, as everyone knows the remaining money owed for the Section 54, severance pay and group termination pay is before the Supreme Court Justice and we are waiting the her ruling. Once we have the ruling, we will post it on our website.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Will".

Dan Will  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President