

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

### **MARCH 30, 2012**

The Local Union is pleased to report that we were successful in negotiating an Agreement for members at the Wolverine Mine in Tumbler Ridge. The Agreement calls for 17% increase over four years in wages plus a \$500.00 a month living allowance. We were able to negotiate improvements to vacation and two additional floaters for the members. We also made major improvements to the language in the old CLAC agreement. Ratification took place on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and the retroactive back to August the 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 has now been paid out. On a much sadder note, one of our key bargaining members, Greg Lutzak, passed away less than a week after the agreement was reached.

Bargaining for the Quintette Coal Mine is scheduled for the middle of April; we hope that we will have all of the non monetary issues wrapped up at the end of that meeting.

Our new Agreement at Excel has now been ratified by the membership, voting 73% in favour. A major win for the crew was improvements to their Health and Welfare Benefit Plan. .

As we reported to you last Executive Board meeting, our membership at Prince George Motors had accepted the agreement and the membership at Wood Wheaton had turned down the agreement. Our Bargaining Committee met with the employer to improve on the agreement, we also had someone come in and explain the RRSP proposal to the membership; this resulted in a ratification of the agreement.

Bro. O'Rourke has had an initial meeting with our members at Fort Motors, the Ford Dealership in Fort St. John, demands will be formulated for the renewal of their Collective Agreement. In this dealership we represent the technicians who are being enticed to the oil patch.

Stan Lanyon, the arbitrator in the Lakeland stat holiday issue made his ruling in March. The Local Union was successful on the issue of whether overtime was voluntary or whether the employer could compel you to work. He further said we did not give up the right of our members to have stat holidays on the alternate shift scheduling. At a meeting this week with CONIFER on behalf of Lakelands, we were unable to have agreement on how stats would work going forward or for the payment of wages due our members for past stats, since the alternate shift schedule was implemented in June of last year. We have one more meeting scheduled for the third of April, failing a satisfactory resolve, we will ask the arbitrator or the courts to force the Company to abide by the Arbitrators decision.

The Local Union has had similar frustrations with our Right of Reference meetings on issues with Canfor. We are not sure whether or not this is some grand plan leading up to next years bargaining. If it is then I know that the membership will not sit by quietly while our grievance procedure and the remedies are not implemented, even after an arbitrator has awarded them.

Our Provincial Negotiating Committee for the Forest Industry had its initial meeting in Vancouver in March of this year. We will be setting dates for our operations to meet and formulate wage and contract proposals to be forwarded to our Interior Bargaining Conference so that we are ready to bargain in the spring.

The Officers and Staff believe it is time for our membership to get major improvements to their wages and working conditions.

Respectfully Submitted By;  
Frank Everitt  
President