

BARGAINING PREPARATION UPDATE

As you all know, bargaining for our new Collective Agreement is now less than one year away.

We would like to thank all who attended the Special Bargaining Meeting on Mar 2nd. The intent of the meeting was not to hear about the things we already know we want: duty day – 4; pension protection; higher pay; better reserve rules; etc. The meeting was to be an opportunity for the membership to actively brainstorm, suggest changes to the contract based on what we identified as needs, and to challenge each other's ideas to ultimately come up with viable proposals. We had some excellent dialogue and as a result produced many creative, realistic suggestions on how to improve working conditions during our next round of bargaining.

In an effort to capture more live input from the membership, we will be in the Comm Centre on Thursday, March 18 from 10am to 1pm.

RUMOUR BUSTING

It has come to my attention that several members are concerned that the green bargaining input forms which were mail-slotted are being used as a lobbying tool for one demographic of our membership to advance a position in bargaining at the expense of another demographic. This is not true. These forms, like the meeting, were nothing more than a Local 4094 initiative to solicit ideas for bargaining that might have been overlooked in the last survey, or that had occurred to people as a result of events since the last survey. They will in no way influence your Executive in the course of prioritizing the membership's wishes. If ideas are received that had previously not been seen, and if these ideas are sound and in the interest of the membership, they will be added to the survey.

This would be a very good time however, to remind you all that when the actual bargaining survey does come out, we will definitely be guided by the collective will of the membership as expressed in that survey. In a group of such diversity, it would be naïve to presume that people's priorities are all the same.

This is a message worth sharing with your colleagues.

In solidarity,



David Pacheco
Base President – CUPE Local 4094