



(Left to Right) Paige Lister, Lori Branton, Melissa Little, and Mason Van Luven

October 31, 2022

Hello Everyone,

On Oct. 28, your bargaining committee comprised of Lori Branton (Prince Albert), Melissa Little (Yorkton), Paige Lister (Moose Jaw) and Mason Van Luven (GSU staff) met with your employer for our first round of agreement renewal bargaining. We are set to meet again this Friday, Nov. 4 to continue our honest and frank discussions with your employer. Their committee is composed of Stewart Stone (Heartland Livestock Services) and Brent Brooks (Northern Livestock Sales).

When we met last week, we discussed the results of GSU's Local 7-wide bargaining survey that asked a rather straightforward question: *"What do you want?"*

The survey replies from Local 7 members were clear. You said that after a tough couple of years, you and your co-workers were feeling the heat from inflation at the gas pump and grocery store, and to help manage your rising costs you want fair compensation, protections, and changes that reflect how your industry is evolving. Your responses were key to setting the Local 7 bargaining agenda which become the items we bring to the table to initiate bargaining.

Key issues across the local include:

- Wage increases that factor in and respect inflation,
- Overtime and work-life balance,
- Improved benefits that cover the real cost of healthcare, dental, and vision care,
- Compensation for working through a pandemic,
- OH&S regarding office equipment and an allowance that covers the cost of a good pair of boots,
- Clearer and more accessible collective agreement language.

To access the bargaining package in its entirety, please go to gsu.ca and refer to the HLS/NLS bargaining tab. The password is **CowsBulls2022**

In a perfect world everyone could get what they want when they want it. Unfortunately, that is not the case when it comes to negotiating a contract.

Let's not sell ourselves short. Let's shoot from the hip.

We are taking a practical and fair approach to improvements to your collective agreement and workplace by stating clearly what Local 7 members want and what we believe is reasonable. We're backing that up by providing examples of workplace experiences from our Local 7 members. Your bargaining committee will do its best to bargain a fair settlement with the employer, but your support is vital to achieving a successful outcome to the bargaining.

Please review the attached proposals and know they are subject to change. Treat any and all emails, updates, and all communications as an invitation to reach out to me or any member of your bargaining committee. We want to hear from you and understand what your priorities are as the bargaining process runs its course.

Watch for another update following our next bargaining session with company representatives on Nov. 4

On behalf of the GSU Local 7 Bargaining Committee,

Mason Van Luven
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Your GSU bargaining committee comprises Lori Branton (Prince Albert), Melissa Little (Yorkton), Paige Lister (Moose Jaw) and Mason Van Luven (GSU staff).

Mason Van Luven

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