

# GSU Locals 1 & 2 (Viterra)



October 11, 2022

**To: All Local 1 (Viterra Country Operations) and Local 2 (Viterra Head Office) members**

## **UPDATE #4**

### **Bargaining Dates**

We still have the 3 sets of dates agreed to for bargaining. Plus your bargaining committee will be meeting in Regina on November 8, 2022, for final bargaining preparations.

- November 16 & 17, 2022
- November 24 & 25, 2022
- December 14 & 15, 2022

### **Bargaining, Collective Action and Cost of Living Stories**

This Summer we asked you all to think about what you want to get out of bargaining or what you think we all should focus on. We heard from some of you that said you wanted to know more about

what was happening outside Vitera negotiations which might be good to know.

These were great comments and so we will try to share stories from around that we think highlight issues we are dealing with, problems that others are facing and good news stories or successes that have been won by working people. These stories won't exclusively deal with bargaining and negotiations but will deal with collective actions that have or should be taking place in our communities.

I hope you find a few of the stories below interesting or challenging. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on these or if you have any stories we might share.



The Ontario provincial government will go ahead with its plan to use the notwithstanding clause to pass Bill 28, which will impose a collective agreement on 55,000 education workers. Amongst them are educational assistants, custodian staff, and early childhood educators, who are some of the lowest paid in the sector. Critics of this bill are citing it as a gross infringement of workers' rights, violating their Charter right to freedom of association. Their union - CUPE - will be fined \$500,000 for every day they engage in strike action, and each person walking the picket line will be fined \$4000 per day, further forcing members to accept a deal that falls far short of inflation.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/bill-28-ontario-education-strike-1.6639027>

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## **Rail, Marine and Transport Workers Union Strike (United Kingdom)**

Strike action is in response to worsening working conditions, stagnating wages, and growing income inequality. 2022 was a flashpoint for union activity, and of all the unions currently walking the picket line, the Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers Union (RMT) under Mick Lynch is making headlines for challenging the government and employers to offer wage increases that match inflation, to protect the social safety net working people depend on, and to see record-breaking profits be returned to the people who created them - the workers.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/8/8/who-is-the-man-driving-britains-ongoing-rail-strikes>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGjs\\_bBMBA&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyGjs_bBMBA&t=12s)

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## **How Local 4 mobilized to make change happen at work (Yorkton)**

The agreement renewal settlement ratified by GSU Local 4 members in August 2022 represented a sharp break from a trend of settlements dominating collective bargaining and wage increases generally for the last decade. What led to these major improvements, union members are united and determined to stand their ground for better wages and employment conditions.

<https://gsu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/How-Local-4-mobilized-and-made-changes-happen-at-work-Oct.-2022.pdf>

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## **Food Banks serving more people despite rising costs** (Saskatoon)

While the top 1% and corporations continue to benefit from rising inflation by siphoning record-breaking profits from working people, the rest of us are feeling the inflationary pressures that are driving up the cost of groceries, fuel, and life's everyday essentials. A direct result of this are more folks in Saskatchewan having to turn to their local Food Bank to meet everyday needs. Access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food is a basic human right, and is linked to economic stability and long-term health. Yet the Saskatoon Food Bank is seeing the opposite as client intake increased in 2022.

<https://www.ckom.com/2022/10/07/food-bank-serving-more-people-despite-rising-costs/>

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## **Refusing to sell out young workers** (Newfoundland)

All workers, young and old, deserve respect and to be paid fairly. When workers don't let themselves be divided by their differences, they are able to secure a collective agreement worth fighting for. A divided union is what the employer wants, and a long, hot summer on the picket line did not break this local's solidarity, all the while building a stronger sense of community.

[https://cupe.ca/refusing-sell-out-young-workers-heart-one-cupe-locals-strike?utm\\_medium=rss](https://cupe.ca/refusing-sell-out-young-workers-heart-one-cupe-locals-strike?utm_medium=rss)

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## Selling Off Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan)

We often get poetic and nostalgic when we talk about the value and beauty of our prairie grasslands in Saskatchewan. These lands since confederation have been deemed Crown Land, but for generations beyond that, they were the traditional lands of the First Nations. We need to take a long look at how we have changed our Crown lands and how well we have followed the promises made with the First Nations as written in our Treaties. We need to ask ourselves, “is this what we want to leave for the generations to come?”

<https://saskdispatch.com/articles/view/selling-off-saskatchewan>

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## Gen Z Moves to unionize (US)

We have seen unprecedented union organizing at Amazon warehouses in the United States and a streak of Starbucks organizing one after the other. These types of campaigns have been led by a new generation of workers who are successfully pushing back against companies pouring millions of dollars into union avoidance campaigns to keep their unions out.

<https://www.randomlengthsnews.com/archives/2022/09/01/gen-z-moves-to-unionize/41375>

On Behalf of your Bargaining Committee,

Steve Torgerson  
GSU staff representative

*Your GSU bargaining committee members are Local 1 - Jim Brown (Balgonie), Wilfred Harris (Carnduff), Shannon Antonenko (Lloydminster), David Barrett (Gull Lake) and Travis Brewer (Saskatoon); Local 2 - Sheila Tran, Howard Wilson and Kaylee Kruger; assisted by GSU staff representatives Steve Torgerson and Mason Van Luven.*

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Local 1 & 2 (Viterra) members will be the first to hear about what is taking place at the bargaining table. Email updates will be issued before the information is released in our *Tuesday Members' Memo*.

Please share these updates with fellow GSU members who may not be on our bargaining update or Tuesday Members' Memo email lists, and encourage them to sign-up for updates by contacting their GSU Staff Representative or their Local representative.

## More Information



If you are looking for past bargaining updates or any information provided to members it can be found on your bargaining page at [gsu.ca](https://gsu.ca) or by clicking below.

[Bargaining Website](#)

### **Q: What is the SFL Convention that happened in Regina last week?**

**A.** The Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) represents nearly 100,000 hard working union members across the province, in every sector imaginable. They are proud to invite workers from across the province to attend the annual convention, held in person for the first time since 2019. The Convention is the governing body for the SFL just like our Convention, in March 2023, is for GSU.

GSU members and staff attended to participate and meet and talk to union members from

all over the province. This is a  
vital part of building a solid  
labour movement that supports  
all workers.

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