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## Local 1 & 2 Bargaining Update #8 - January 11, 2023

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Reply-To: steve@gsu.ca

Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 10:30 AM

### GSU Locals 1 & 2 (Viterra)



January 11, 2023

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

#### **UPDATE #8**

#### **Bargaining Dates**

Below are the current bargaining dates.

- November 16 & 17, 2022 - finished
- November 24 & 25, 2022 - finished
- December 14 & 15, 2022 - finished
- January 26 & 27 or January 31 & February 1, 2023
- March 7 & 8, 2023

## **Upcoming Bargaining Dates**

With the holiday season almost over and nothing new resulting from meeting with the company since the last update we have a short update on bargaining.

As you will see above we have 2 sets of dates in place for bargaining. Either Jan. 26 & 27 or Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 and then Mar. 7 & 8, 2023.

We should receive the company's financial proposals when we meet next, then we can get to work on trying to find a settlement.

## **Local 1 & 2 Stories**

We are continuing to get stories and statements from members of Local 1 & 2. We struggle with how to describe the numerous stories we have received, they are not good they are sad, powerful, disappointing, frustrating and hopeful.

Below is another collection of stories for you to read, I think we will have enough stories that we will be able to add them to every bargaining update this year. If we keep getting more stories submitted we will find a way to make sure they are get read.

If you haven't sent in your story or feel like you have more to share, please follow the link below.

**[Share your Story](#)**

Any stories submitted will have any names or information removed to keep the member anonymous.

## **Local 1 & 2 Member Stories**

"Uncertain work shifts. Viterra wants you to be available 24/7 and work a lot of consecutive hours, ie loading a train from 3pm until 6am the next day.(15 plus hours) I think it is time to "work to

rule" everyone needs to be on the same side and stop this nonsense."

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"The money situation is absolutely terrible. As a 4th year apprentice, I took home more money than I do as a maintenance supervisor while working less with less responsibility. Wages are 30-40,000 below average for this position. With the cost of living increasing (it seems by the day) families are struggling to live comfortably. With the low wages it's difficult to spend our hard earned money (if we can even get the time off work)."

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"i started at Viterra 2 years ago my pay cheques have increased 40 dollars.i have no payments on vehicles or houses my wife works 30 hours a week we are struggling to pay bills and put food on table.what kind of life do we have if we cant afford to do or play anything go anywere. 8 percent cost of living increase last year and a 4 percent raise so already 8 percent behind so 7.5 increase just brings us to what we should have got last year.shitty life means shitty employees!!!!!"

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"Greetings everyone, I would like to share my story about our unpredictable work schedules and also my struggles regarding the rising of cost of living. I decided to have a part time job because I'm struggling with my financial issues due to continues inflation and rising of cost of living and my current wage is not enough to pay for mortgage and bills. I've been in the Viterra for 4 years and I'm making 47,423.68 CAD annually. I just had an increase because the other grain elevator company wants me to join them but the Viterra offered me an increase so that I can stay with them and for me it's a good offer. But still not enough to cover my piling bills that's why I decided to have a part time job. My issue with my schedules is whenever we have incoming car loading the trains spots are always push back for 2, 3 days or even a week and I need to cancel my schedules in my part time job because my priority is Viterra since this is my full time job but I lost so many hours in my part time job and that is a lost of income for me. My Manager from my part time job got pissed off with me due to my scheduled work cancelation. So in return they are not giving me a schedule for weeks because I think the reason why is I'm always messing up with there schedules and I completely understand there point of view because it's hard to operate in a restaurant if they have short staff. If only my wages is sufficient enough for me not to have a part time job then that will be good for me and my family. I'm kind of exhausted doing double jobs and it's not healthy for me and sacrificing my quality with my family.

We are also operating locomotive and doing ground stuff such as spotting and switching cars. There's a lot of hazard when we are operating the locomotive and doing ground stuff because we are crossing an emergency road and our neighbor is Cenovus upgrader. Our tracks is not loop track unlike other facilities. We need to cross roads just to spots our rail cars. With all of the hazards doing this job we didn't get any incentive or wage increase and I believe we deserve for that benefits because if we compare the other locomotive operators from other company they have a decent amount of wages compare to Viterra.

I'm hoping that Viterra will hear our aggravation."

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"First off I want to say, WTF has happened to Viterra!!! It is no longer the company that I was so Proud to work for. A company that paid a fair wage and had the best of the best employees. They used to respect their employees and to me that means the most. It's really sad what is happening,.

I had the opportunity to go to a rival new company, but chose to stay for several reasons. I wish now I would have gone elsewhere. I thought that loyalty meant something, but sadly it means nothing. It really breaks my heart. You see, we actually care about our fellow employees and our customers, but it isn't reciprocated at all. It has become a horrible, ruthless business."

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"Being with Viterra for over 10 years now, I don't remember a time where I would travel from station to station or talk to co-workers at other facilities throughout Viterra where no one has anything nice to say about the company and their job. Morale is at an all time low and no one wants to be here anymore. I'm sad to say that I'm embarrassed to wear the "Viterra" logo in public as this used to be something i was proud to do. Something needs to change or the staff turnover is going to start increasing rapidly even more than it already has."

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If you have any questions about bargaining, specific bargaining issues or about sharing your story reach out to your staff representative or anyone on your bargaining committee.

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.

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](http://gsu.ca) or by clicking below.

**Past Bargaining  
Updates Found Here**

### Q: Are our performance reviews important?

**A.** Performance reviews are important because they can also have an effect on your pay increase for that year so it is important that you take time to complete them. Even though the current pay system is set up to minimize the effect your performance rating has on your pay increase it is still important to make sure the review is accurate and that you have put your input included.

Even if they are important they may not be valuable. Reviews should allow for open and honest dialogue about how work is going, what is working and what needs to be worked on.

But often they just become a  
rushed and empty exercise and  
managers may not be able or  
willing to rate your performance  
honestly.

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Sent by [steve@gsu.ca](mailto:steve@gsu.ca) in collaboration with



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