

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

between:

DISCOVERY CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
(hereinafter referred to as the “Co-operative”)

and

GRAIN AND GENERAL SERVICES UNION
(hereinafter referred to as the “Union”)



Effective November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2025

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ARTICLE 1 – SCOPE & DEFINITION

Discovery Co-operative Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “the Co-operative”) recognizes the Grain and General Services Union (ILWU – Canada)(hereinafter referred to as “the Union”) for the duration of this agreement as the sole collective bargaining agent for purposes of collective bargaining in respect of wages/salaries and other conditions of employment on behalf of employees of the Co-operative at the Farm Supply centre located at 10060 Hereford St, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, with the exception of the Agro Division Manager and the Operations Manager.

DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1 Regular Full-Time employee - Regular full-time employee shall mean an employee employed to meet ongoing operational requirements on a year-round basis and is scheduled to work the full-time hours contained in Article 18. Regular full-time employees who are laid off shall retain their regular full-time status with the Co-operative while on layoff.
- 1.2 Regular Part-Time employee - Regular part-time employee shall mean an employee hired to work on a partial day or partial week basis generally consisting of fewer hours than defined in the Regular or Modified Work Schedule in Article 18.
- 1.3 Temporary employee - Temporary employee shall mean an employee employed to meet seasonal or temporary operating needs. The only provisions of this Agreement applying to the employment of temporary employees are contained in Schedule B.
- 1.4 Casual employee - Casual employee shall mean an individual who is hired on a job contract or on an hourly basis for unscheduled or irregular work. The only provisions of this Agreement applying to the employment of casual employees are contained in Schedule B.
- 1.5 Seniority - Seniority commences at date of hire with the Co-operative and is only interrupted in accordance with Article 12.14. In the event of a common seniority date occurring in any competition, the tie will be broken based on years of experience with relevant agricultural companies. In the event that the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing, the tie will be broken based on the reverse alphabet of the last name. A Board of Arbitration referred to in Article 7 hereof or such other appropriate authority shall have the power to reinstate service forfeited due to termination of employment.

For purposes of calculating seniority, the “Co-operative” includes all service earned with any predecessor company acquired or incorporated into Discovery Co-operative Limited

- 1.6 Promotion - shall mean the movement of an employee from a position to a position with a higher salary range.
- 1.7 Demotion - shall mean the movement of an employee from a position to a position with a lower salary range.
- 1.8 Transfer - shall mean the movement of an employee from a position to another position with an identical salary range.
- 1.9 Salary Range - shall mean the range of salaries established to pay employees performing a particular position. Each salary range has a minimum, mid-point or market rate, and maximum wage/salary.

ARTICLE 2 – SPIRIT & INTENT

The spirit and intention of this Agreement is to maintain good and amicable relations between the Co-operative and all of its employees covered by this Agreement, so that the solution of all matters pertaining to conditions of employment may be arrived at by consultation and agreement between the parties hereto, and this Agreement is in no sense to be taken as a discouragement to direct negotiations where a solution can be reached by such means without having recourse to the bargaining procedure hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE 3 – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- 3.1 The Union recognizes that the Co-operative has sole authority to manage its affairs, to direct its working forces, including the right to hire, classify, reclassify, determine wages/salaries of employees within the terms of Schedule A hereinafter referred to, to transfer, promote, demote, and to suspend or discharge any employee for just cause, and to increase or decrease the working force of the Co-operative, to re-organize, close, disband any part of the operations or business as circumstances and necessity may require, subject to the right of any employee concerned to lodge a grievance in the manner and to the extent hereinafter provided.

- 3.2 The Union further recognizes the right of the Co-operative to operate and manage its business in all respects in accordance with its commitments and responsibilities, and to make and alter from time to time, the rules, regulations and policies to be observed by the employees, not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4 – CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONS

- 4.1 It is understood and agreed, inasmuch as the Co-operative recognizes the Union as the employees' bargaining agency, as evidence of good faith, the Union assumes responsibility for its members in their relations with the Co-operative and will use its best efforts to have the employees' responsibility under the contract carried out in letter and spirit and to have its members deliver a fair day's work as called for by the position involved and the reasonable orders of the Co-operative.
- 4.2 The Co-operative shall provide bulletin boards in their facilities for official and legitimate union use.
- 4.3 The Co-operative shall provide all employees with copies of appraisals and evaluations. Further, employees shall be given access to their personnel file and/or give a union - permission to access their file.
- 4.4 The Co-operative will not discriminate in its hiring and employment practices against persons by reason of age, race, creed, sex, religion, nationality, ancestry or place of origin, political affiliation, union activity, marital status, sexual orientation or physical disability.
- 4.5 The Union will not discriminate in its practices against persons by reason of age, race, creed, sex, religion, nationality, ancestry or place of origin, political affiliation, union activity, marital status, sexual orientation or physical disability.
- 4.6 The Co-operative and the Union are committed to the creation of a workplace free of discrimination and the promotion of equality of opportunity for all employees. As such, the parties agree to work together to identify and remove barriers to the full participation of women, people with disabilities, Aboriginal peoples, and visible minorities.

ARTICLE 5 – MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 The Co-operative agrees that as a condition of employment, membership dues or sums in lieu will be deducted from the wages/salaries earned by employees in the following categories:
- a) All employees for whom the Union has bargaining authority under this collective agreement.
 - b) All new employees under this collective agreement, as of their first complete pay period following commencement of employment.
- 5.2 Membership dues or sums in lieu so deducted from salaries shall be paid monthly to the General Secretary of the Union within fifteen calendar days following completion of the last payroll period in the calendar month, remittance to be supported by information with respect to each individual employee, including the period covered by the remittance for that employee.
- 5.3 The Co-operative shall provide the General Secretary of the Union with staff change lists following each monthly pay period, which shall include the name, location, job title, salary, and effective date of all staff changes, including new hires.

ARTICLE 6 – GRIEVANCES

- 6.1 The Co-operative and the Union agree that it is most desirable to resolve misunderstandings and disputes through discussions between the employee and the supervisor, and both the Co-operative and the Union shall encourage employees to discuss their complaints with their supervisors so as to resolve differences quickly and directly without necessarily having to resort to the following formal process.

Employees may have benefit of representation by union officials at any of the steps in the procedure, and similarly management representatives may have benefit of counsel.

Formal grievances, whether individual or executive, shall be raised within ten (10) working days of the date on which the grievance becomes apparent, or ought to have become apparent. Grievances shall be in writing on the approved grievance form, must identify the specific clauses in the Collective Agreement that are being violated and provide specific details in writing with respect to the individuals whose rights have been

violated and/or damages resulting from the breach of the Collective Agreement and shall be dealt with in the following manner without stoppage of work.

- 6.2 Step 1 – The grievance shall be taken up with the employee’s immediate manager, who shall render a decision within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the grievance. Executive grievances (those submitted by the Union organization rather than any an individual) shall dispense with step 1.

Step 2 – Within seven (7) working days of the receipt of the decision in step 1, the grievance shall be taken up with the General Manager **or designate** who shall render a decision within seven (7) working days.

Step 3 - A grievance is referred to arbitration by either party giving notice to the other in writing of their intention to do so. Such written notice shall be given within ten (10) working days of the receipt of decision at step 2, or from the expiry of the time limits at step 2, whichever is the earlier. Within seven (7) working days of receipt of such written notice, the General Secretary of the Union, and the General Manager, or their designates shall consult with regarding to appointing **an Arbitrator**. If the Union and the Company fail to agree on the appointment of **an Arbitrator**, they shall request the Provincial Minister of Labour to appoint **an Arbitrator**.

- 6.3 Time limitations in the preceding process may be extended by mutual agreement between the parties, provided that requests for extension are made prior to the expiry of the time limitation.
- 6.4 The griever shall have the right to attend the arbitration of their grievance without the loss of wages, benefits, or service.
- 6.5 In the event of a grievance, the Co-operative agrees, upon request, to provide the Union with copies of disciplinary and/or appraisal documents that have been served upon the employee which the Co-operative intends to use in regard to the specific grievance.
- 6.6 References to disciplinary matters shall not be used against an employee after **three (3)** years providing there have been no further incidents of the same or substantially similar nature during that **three (3)** year period, unless the disciplinary matter involves harassment, bullying and/or violence.
- 6.7 A grievance not initiated or advanced within the time limits shall be deemed abandoned, and all rights or recourse to the grievance and arbitration procedure shall be at an end.

ARTICLE 7 – ARBITRATION BOARD

- 7.1 The **Arbitrator** under Article 6., (Step 3) shall not have authority to alter or change any of the provisions of the Agreement, or to insert any new provisions, or to give any decision contrary to the terms and provisions of the Agreement, but it is agreed that where disciplinary action is involved the **Arbitrator** shall have the power to award a penalty or amend a penalty imposed by the Co-operative.
- 7.2 The decision of the **Arbitrator** shall be final and binding upon the parties hereto and upon any employee or employees concerned. If there is no decision by a majority of the Board, then the decision of the Chairperson shall be similarly final and binding.
- 7.3 No costs of any arbitration shall be ordered to or against either party, but each party shall be responsible for the expenses and/or fees payable to its nominee and for one-half the expenses and/or fees payable to the Chairperson of the Board.

ARTICLE 8 – BENEFIT PLANS

- 8.1 All eligible employees who have completed ninety (90) days service with the Co-operative shall be entitled to participate in the Co-operative's benefit plans and shall be enrolled on the first of the month following the completion of the ninety (90) day service period.

The Co-operative shall give the Union sixty (60) days calendar notice of any change to the insurers or rearrangement of the benefit plans coverage and shall consult the Union prior to implementing any changes to the benefit plans.

- 8.2 Sick Leave

In the case of sickness or disability, all employees shall be entitled to benefits as follows:

- a) Employees shall earn and accumulate sick leave credits on the basis of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) days per month of continuous service from commencement of employment. Maximum accumulative sick leave credits shall be **one hundred and ninety (190) working days**.

Employees whose existing sick leave credits exceed **one hundred and ninety (190)** working days shall not have their sick leave credits reduced in accordance with the previous paragraph. Any such employee shall not accumulate any further sick leave credits until such time as **their** accumulative sick leave credits fall below **one hundred and ninety (190)** working days.

- b) Employees who are entitled to payment of wages/salaries during sick leave shall be paid at the rate of pay that would apply if the employee were not absent on sick leave to the limit of **their** accumulated sick leave credits and to a maximum of **ninety (90)** calendar days in any one illness. **After ninety (90) calendar days** the employee **must apply for** Long Term Disability Plan, subject to the rules and regulations of the plan and the timely filing of proof of loss.
- c) All sick leave usage under this Plan shall be deducted from accumulated sick leave credits.
- d) Sick leave allowance payments shall not extend beyond normal retirement age.
- e) Sick leave allowance payments for the first day of any sickness may be withheld at the discretion of the Co-operative.
- f) All recipients of sickness and disability allowance payments must provide on request of the Co-operative, medical reports of their condition.
- g) An employee on sick leave shall only accumulate vacation credits for the first two (2) months of sick leave.
- h) Sickness and disability allowance payments under this Plan will not apply to any employees receiving compensation under The Workers' Compensation Act.

8.3 Extended Sick Leave

- a) Employees shall be eligible for extended sick leave benefits so as to provide benefits in the amount of $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of regular earnings to a maximum earnings ceiling of the Employment Insurance Act at the time of disability, for (a) the period of absence due to sickness in excess of a two week waiting period in any one illness, or (b) where sick leave credits in Plan A exceed two (2) weeks, benefits from this plan shall commence at the expiration of sick leave credits in Plan A.
- b) Maximum benefit payable in any one illness shall be for seventy-six (76) calendar days.
- c) Benefits under this plan shall be reinstated immediately on return of an employee to work following an illness.
- d) Benefits under this plan shall not extend beyond normal retirement age.
- e) The regular rate of pay, which an employee is receiving at time of illness, shall be used in determining benefits under this Plan.
- f) All recipients of benefits under this Plan must provide, on request of the Co-operative, medical reports on their condition.
- g) An employee on sick and/or extended sick leave shall only accumulate vacation credits for the first two (2) months of sick leave.
- h) Benefits under this Plan shall not apply to any employee receiving compensation under The Workers' Compensation Act.

ARTICLE 9 – PENSION PLAN

- 9.1 All Regular Full-Time and Regular Part-Time employees shall, as a condition of employment, participate in a defined contribution pension plan maintained by the Co-operative, in accordance with the bylaws of that plan. These eligible employees shall be enrolled in the plan on the first day of the month following completion of ninety (90) day service period.

Participating employees will each contribute six percent (6%) of earnings to the plan. The Co-operative will contribute six percent (6%) of an employee's earnings to the plan.

“Earnings” as used in this clause shall mean the regular remuneration paid by the Co-operative, excluding overtime, shift differential, pay in lieu of vacation and bonus or incentive pay. Earnings shall include time taken off as banked time under Article 18.4.

ARTICLE 10 – HEALTH & SAFETY

- 10.1 The Co-operative and the Union recognize an employee’s right to working conditions which show respect for **the employee’s** health, safety, and physical well-being.
- 10.2 The parties recognize that the maintenance and development of the employees’ general well-being constitute a common objective. Consequently, all efforts shall be deployed to prevent and correct any situation and any conduct liable to compromise the health and safety of employees or deteriorate the work environment.
- 10.3 The Co-operative and the Union recognize the need for constructive and meaningful consultations on health and safety matters. To this end, joint safety committees shall be maintained.
- 10.4 Boot Allowance - It shall be a condition of employment that appropriate safety footwear be worn where designated by the Co-operative. Regular employees at these worksites who are required to wear safety footwear shall be reimbursed for the purchase of safety footwear **with their Manager’s approval** to a maximum of **two hundred** dollars (**\$200.00**), upon providing a receipt. For new employees, reimbursement will not be made until the employee passes probation.

ARTICLE 11 – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

- 11.1 In all cases of temporary total disability, as defined by the Worker’s Compensation Board in its administration of the *Workers’ Compensation Act*, sustained by an employee as a result of an occupational injury covered by the Act, the Co-operative agrees to continue to pay the employee an amount equal to **their** net earnings (after income tax) prior to injury during the period of such disability and negotiated increases whilst **they are** receiving full compensation from the Workers’ Compensation Board and retain the compensation received from the Board.

- 11.2 In the event the Workers' Compensation Board reduces compensation payments below one hundred percent (100%), salary payments will be adjusted to the percentage of compensation as determined by the Board.
- 11.3 An employee on Workers' Compensation shall only accumulate vacation credits for the first two (2) months.
- 11.4 The Co-operative and the Union agree it is in the best interests of employees to return to work as soon as reasonably possible following compensable illness or injury. Employees will be offered and are expected to participate in a return to work plan when appropriate to do so. The return to work plan will be designed in conjunction with the employee, the supervisor, the employee's physician and the employee's union representative. The employee will continue to receive benefits of the Article during the return to work plan.
- 11.5 An employee's participation in a return to work plan will not result in the layoff of other Co-operative employees.

ARTICLE 12 – SENIORITY

Vacancies

- 12.1 When the Co-operative determines it necessary to fill a vacant position within the scope of this Agreement, the position shall be posted. Vacancies will be open to applicants for five (5) days. It will be the policy of the Co-operative that in filling posted positions, employees of the Co-operative shall be given first consideration.
- 12.2 Notices of such vacancies shall be **posted electronically, with a copy sent to the Grain and General Services Union.**
- 12.3 Notices of vacancies will contain information pertinent to the position being posted such as location.
- 12.4 The Co-operative, in its sole discretion, may elect to fill a vacancy to a position by transfer. The Union may make representation to the Co-operative where the circumstances of the transfer warrant such representation.
- 12.5 When filling vacancies, ability, qualifications and merit as determined by the Co-operative shall be the governing factors.

Layoffs

- 12.6 In the event of a layoff, the Co-operative shall, generally on a location basis, retain the employees who, based on ability, qualifications and merit are determined by the Co-operative to be best suited for the positions and in the event two or more candidates are relatively equal, the Co-operative will retain the employee with the greater seniority. Recall from layoff will be done on the same basis.
- 12.7 The Co-operative will provide written notice of layoff as set out below.
- a) After three (3) months of services and up to one year's service – one (1) week's written notice or pay in lieu.
 - b) After one (1) year of services and up to three (3) years' service – two (2) weeks' written notice or pay in lieu.
 - c) After three (3) years of services and up to five (5) years' service – four (4) weeks' written notice or pay in lieu.
 - d) After five (5) years of services and up to ten (10) years' service – six (6) weeks' written notice or pay in lieu.
 - e) After ten (10) years of services – eight (8) weeks' written notice or pay in lieu.

For the purpose of this section, pay in lieu of notice shall be at regular rates, exclusive of overtime.

- 12.8 An employee who is laid off shall endeavor to obtain an alternate position by bidding on vacancies in accordance with Article 12.5. Bumping shall not be permitted.
- 12.9 An employee who obtains an alternative position in accordance with Article 12.8 shall have **their** wage/salary maintained in accordance with Article 16.
- 12.10 The Co-operative will make benefit plans available to employees on layoff (except for seasonal layoffs) up to a maximum of one (1) year, provided the employee pays the full premium for the plan.

Recall

- 12.11 In the event that an employee is recalled to work while on layoff, the date of layoff will remain until such time as an employee works a minimum of forty (40) consecutive regular hours after the recall.

- 12.12 Regular employees on layoff will maintain their official employment start date and have recall rights for twelve (12) months after which their employment will be deemed to be terminated and they will receive a Co-operative paid severance allowance calculated on the basis of two (2) weeks' pay per year of service, prorated for partial years and part-time service.
- 12.13 When an employee is to be recalled to work, the Co-operative will attempt to contact the employee by telephone. If telephone contact is not made then a recall notice will be sent by registered mail to the employee's last known address. If the employee does not respond in person or by telephone or email to the appropriate Manager within seven (7) calendar days of the recall notice being mailed, the employee will lose **their** recall rights and employment will terminate.
- 12.14 An employee shall lose **their** seniority if **the employee**:
- a) Retires;
 - b) Resigns;
 - c) Is terminated in accordance with Articles 12.12 and/or 12.13;
 - d) Is dismissed for just cause; or
 - e) Fails to report for three (3) consecutive shifts except for circumstances beyond the employee's control. Nothing in this clause shall restrict the right of the Co-operative to dismiss an employee who is AWOL.

ARTICLE 13 – LEAVES OF ABSENCE

13.1 General Leave of Absence

- a) Leave of absence without pay may be granted to employees for valid reasons as set out by Co-operative policy.
- b) An employee on general leave of absence shall not accumulate sick leave credits, or earn vacation but shall retain the seniority, sick leave credits, and vacation credits earned prior to commencing leave of absence.

- c) Employees do not have the option of continuing their benefit coverage during the leave.
- d) Employees on leave of absence shall be required to apply for any extension. Approval of extension will be at the discretion of the Co-operative.

13.2 Maternity/Adoption/Parental Leave

- a) In accordance with the Saskatchewan Employment Act an employee shall be granted maternity, adoption, and/or parental leave of absence without pay.
- b) Employees on maternity, **adoption, and/or parental** leave will continue to accrue annual vacation credits for up to two (2) months of the health related portion of their maternity leave and all of the voluntary portion of their maternity leave.
- c) Employees on maternity, **adoption, and/or parental** leave will continue to accrue sick leave credits while on the voluntary portion of their maternity leave.
- d) **While on maternity, adoption, and/or parental leave, the employee shall maintain benefit coverage, as set out in Article 8, with the plan premiums paid as if the employee was not on a leave.**

13.3 Family Leave

Employees shall be allowed to take three (3) **to a maximum of five (5) days** paid leave per year, chargeable to earned sick leave credits, to attend to family matters, including but not limited to parental/school requirements, medical, dental, and other healthcare appointments of the employee or members of **their** immediate family.

13.4 Bereavement Leave

Special leave of absence with pay shall be granted a minimum of **three (3)** days, to a maximum of seven working days in cases of pressing emergency. Pressing emergency shall include death, serious accident or illness in the immediate family of an employee. Length of such leave shall be determined by the Co-operative, who will take into consideration emergency and travel time. Immediate family shall be confined to spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, children of an employee, step-parent and step-children, grandparent, and grandchildren.

Two days' leave of absence with pay will be granted to attend the funeral of an employee's mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

13.5 Jury Leave

In keeping with the policy that an employee not suffer a loss of pay while serving as a juror, the remuneration to be received by the employee on any working day the employee reports for or serves on jury duty shall be regular rate of pay for the day less jury duty fees receivable for that day.

13.6 Union Leave

- a) The Co-operative shall provide leave of absence with pay for two (2) bargaining unit employees to a maximum of eight (8) days each for attending negotiations.
- b) Subject to operational requirements, additional leave shall be granted as requested by the Union. No employee shall experience any loss or interruption in pay, benefits, service or seniority while on such a leave. The Co-operative shall bill the Union for the cost of such additional leave within thirty (30) calendar days of its occurrence.
- c) Subject to operational requirements, leaves of absence shall also be granted to elected officers and delegates to attend to the business of the Union. No elected officer or delegate shall suffer any loss or interruption of pay, benefits, service or seniority while on such a leave. The Co-operative shall bill the Union for the cost of such additional leave within thirty (30) calendar days of its occurrence.
- d) No employee representative appointed or elected by the Union's members for the purpose of attending grievance or disciplinary meetings or other meetings provided for under this agreement shall suffer any loss or interruption of pay, benefits, service or seniority while attending such meetings.

13.7 Military Leave

Employees who have at least one (1) year of service with the Co-operative shall be entitled to up to two (2) weeks leave of absence without pay per year for the purpose of serving as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Leaves beyond two (2) weeks in any year may be granted at the discretion of the Co-operative. Upon return from Military Leave, the employee shall be placed in the same or similar position with the same rate of pay as they occupied prior to the leave.

ARTICLE 14 – SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (SEB)

- 14.1 During the term of the Collective Agreement, employees who are laid off work shall receive a Supplemental Employment Benefit allowance from the Co-operative, which altogether with Employment Insurance benefits shall equal seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's normal weekly earnings, less overtime and other premium payments.

The terms governing payment of the SEB shall conform to the requirements of the Canada Employment Insurance Commission (C.E.I.C.) and shall include the following provisions:

- a) An employee must have completed a minimum of **three-hundred and sixty-five (365)** working days of service with the Co-operative at date of layoff in order to qualify for SEB benefits. Eligibility is as follows:

Working days with the Co-operative	Eligible weeks of SEB
Less than 365	0 weeks
365 or More	10 weeks

- b) SEB benefits will be payable only to those employees on layoff who are eligible for and where applicable, have received Employment Insurance benefits in each week of layoff. A week of layoff shall mean a period of seven (7) consecutive days commencing on and including Sunday.
- c) An employee must apply to the Co-operative and provide the necessary proof of eligibility for SEB in a manner acceptable to the Co-operative.
- d) An employee shall not be entitled to SEB after:
- i) **They have** refused a call back to work in accordance with the provisions of the Collective Agreement; or
 - ii) **They are** receiving sickness and accident indemnity payments under the Co-operative plan, Workers' Compensation or severance pay in any week of layoff.

- e) The benefit level paid under this plan is set at seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's normal weekly salary. It is understood that in any one week the total amount of SEB, Employment insurance gross benefits and any other earnings received by the employees will not exceed ninety-five percent (95%) of the employee's normal weekly earnings.
- f) Any employee eligible to receive SEB benefits shall provide notice of and proof of any other earnings received by the employee during the period in which the employee is in receipt of SEB benefits. Failure to provide such notice and or proof of earnings shall disqualify the employee from receipt of any further SEB benefits.
- g) No employee shall be paid SEB for more than twenty-six (26) weeks.
- h) The payment of benefits to employees on layoff will be made by the Co-operative on a "pay-as-you-go" basis separate from the regular payroll.
- i) Employees who are laid off shall have the right to defer receipt of vacation pay until a time subsequent to recall to work. This does not imply they have right to take vacation time after they return to work.
- j) Service Canada will be advised in writing of any change to the plan within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the change. Payments of guaranteed annual remuneration, deferred remuneration, or severance pay will not be reduced or increased by payments received under the SEB plan.

ARTICLE 15 – PROBATION & TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

- 15.1 A newly hired employee shall be on probation for the employee's first ninety (90) days worked. The probationary period may be extended by agreement between the Union and the Co-operative.
- 15.2 A probationary employee may grieve a dismissal, but the answer provided at step 2 of Article 6 shall be final and binding upon the parties hereto and upon any employee concerned.

ARTICLE 16 – DEMOTION FORMULA

- 16.1 When an employee is involuntarily demoted and/or, their position is eliminated and they bid on and accept a demotion, the following shall apply:
- a) The employee shall continue to receive the wage/salary being received prior to demotion for a period not to exceed **six (6)** months.
 - b) Upon commencement of the **seventh (7th)** month, the employee's wage/salary shall be reduced to an appropriate rate within the range of the new position.

ARTICLE 17 – TEMPORARY PERFORMANCE OF HIGHER DUTY (TPHD)

- 17.1 An employee assigned to temporarily relieve in a higher paid position shall be paid as if **they** had been promoted to same. The employee must be required to perform the majority of the duties of the higher position.
- 17.2 There shall be a three (3) day waiting period. When an employee has worked more than three (3) days in the higher paid position they shall be paid at the higher rate for all time worked in the position.
- 17.3 After ninety (90) days of relief assignment, if the position is still vacant or the incumbent has not returned, it shall be posted as a temporary position unless otherwise agreed to by the Co-operative and the Union. Selection shall be subject to Article 12 - Seniority.
- 17.4 Experience obtained by an employee during temporary performance of higher duty shall not qualify the employee for promotion to a vacancy unless the temporary vacancy has been posted.

ARTICLE 18 – HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME

18.1 Hours of Work

The Co-operative retains the right to schedule hours of work of employees as is necessary to ensure efficient operations and to provide coverage for the determined hours of operation.

18.2 Regular Work Schedules and Modified Work Week Schedules

Regular work schedules for employees shall be defined as five (5) days per week consisting of eight (8) hours per day and forty (40) hours per week.

The Co-operative may implement modified or variable hours of work schedules provided the Union is notified and the affected employees agree to vary or modify their hours of work.

Subject to section 18.6 below, the typical workweek shall consist of 40 hours of work paid at the employee's straight hourly rate and the work day shall normally consist of eight (8) hours work paid at the straight time hourly rate.

18.3 Scheduled Days of Rest

As a norm, employees shall be entitled to two (2) consecutive days of rest each week except where schedule changes or shift rotation occur resulting in one (1) day of rest at the time of the change.

18.4 Overtime

All hours worked, either before or after regular hours of work, arrived at pursuant to this Article, shall be considered as overtime hours and shall be paid at the rate of time-and-a-half ($1 \frac{1}{2}x$) for the first three hours worked in any one day, and double (2x) the regular rate for hours worked in excess of three hours' overtime in any one day.

Double (2x) the regular rate shall be paid for all hours worked on an employee's days or part-days of rest. If an employee is called back to work on their regular days or part-days of rest, they shall receive not less than four (4) hours' pay at double (2x) their regular rate of pay.

When the needs of the operation require it, employees may be required to work overtime. However, all overtime is voluntary after an employee has worked twelve (12) hours in any shift or forty-eight (48) hours in any week.

Employees shall be paid for all overtime worked at the appropriate overtime rate of pay as described in this Article. However, with the agreement of the Co-operative, employees may bank their overtime worked, at the appropriate overtime rate, to be taken as paid time off work on mutual agreement between the Co-operative and the employee.

18.5 Averaging

The hours worked by employees may be averaged over four (4) weeks or a longer period provided the Union and affected employees are informed of the circumstances and terms of the proposed averaging; and, provided the affected employees approve of the averaging.

The hours worked by employees in the Assistant Manager or higher positions may be averaged over an eight (8) week period. All hours worked in excess of 320 hours in the eight (8) week period shall be deemed to be overtime work and shall be paid for or banked at the rate of one and one half times (1.5 X) the employee's regular rate of pay as directed by the employee.

18.6 Maximum and Minimum

The hours of work as stated in this Article are not to be construed as a guaranteed minimum of hours to be worked.

18.7 General/Statutory Pay for Modified Work Week Schedules

Employees working a Modified Work Week Shift Schedule or whose work is averaged over multiple weeks as described in Article 18.5 shall receive eight (8) hours pay at their regular rate in addition to overtime at the rate of one and a half times (1.5 X) their regular rate of pay for all hours worked on a general holiday. Such employees who do not work on a general holiday, will receive eight (8) hours pay at their regular rate of pay.

ARTICLE 19 – SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL, CALL OUT AND STANDBY PAY

19.1 Shift Differential

A shift differential of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per hour shall be paid on all hours worked between 1800 hours and 0600 hours.

19.2 Weekend Differential

A weekend differential of eighty cents (80¢) per hour shall be paid on all hours worked between 00:01 on Saturday to 24:00 on Sunday.

- 19.3 There shall be only one premium paid per hour worked, and where two may be applicable, it will be the larger of the two that will be paid. Where overtime is worked there will be no premiums paid on the same hour.

19.4 Call-Out Guarantee

A minimum of four (4) hours pay will be paid to an employee who is called out for duty by management after the employee has left the Co-operative premises. The Co-operative and the employee may agree to a lesser amount for less than four hours worked.

19.5 Standby Pay

Standby duty shall mean any period of not more than eight (8) hours during which time an employee is not on regular duty but has been assigned standby duty and must be available to respond to any request to return to duty. This shall include, but not be limited to, those employees scheduled to be on call by their manager or supervisor and assigned to carry a pager, cellular phone, or laptop computer as a result of the standby duty assignment.

Employees who are assigned to standby shall be credited with one (1) hour to their averaging total for each period of assigned standby. Eg: For each eight hour period, or portion thereof, on standby: 1 hour credited to their averaging total.

ARTICLE 20 – ABSENCE FROM DUTY

- 20.1 No employee shall be absent from the Co-operative's premises during their scheduled hours of work except with the consent of supervisory personnel.

ARTICLE 21 – VACATIONS

21.1 Vacation is to be taken at times mutually agreed upon between the Co-operative and the employee. Vacations will be paid on the basis of 1/52 gross pay in the previous year per week of vacation entitlement, or on current earnings, whichever is greater.

21.2 Vacation Entitlement

- a) Employees who have not completed at least seven (7) years of service shall earn vacation at the rate of three (3) weeks per each full year of service.
- b) Employees who have completed seven (7) years of service shall in the years of service subsequent to the seventh (7th) anniversary date of employment earn vacation at the rate of four (4) weeks per year.
- c) Employees who have completed fifteen (15) years of service shall in the years of service subsequent to the fifteenth (15th) anniversary date of employment earn vacation at the rate of five (5) weeks per year.
- d) Any employee who was earning six (6) weeks of vacation per year as of the commencement of this agreement will continue to earn six (6) weeks of vacation per year.

21.3 Payout of Vacation Earnings upon Termination of Employment

In the case of termination of employment, the Co-operative shall pay to the employee any vacation pay owing to **them** in respect of any prior completed year of employment plus the vacation pay owing to **them** for the current year.

If an employee's vacation is in a negative balance at the date of termination they will be required to repay amounts owing.

21.4 When vacation pay is paid out rather than being taken as vacation, the payout shall be based on the employee's accrual rate at their rate of pay at the time of payout.

ARTICLE 22 – GENERAL HOLIDAYS

22.1 The following shall be recognized as statutory holidays with pay at regular straight time hourly rates:

New Year's Day

Family Day

Good Friday

Victoria Day

Canada Day

Saskatchewan Day

Labour Day

**National Day for
Truth and
Reconciliation**

Thanksgiving Day

Remembrance Day

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

- 22.2 In addition to pay for the holiday, an employee required to work on the statutory holiday will be paid not less than one and one-half times (1.5x) **their** regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked on that day.

ARTICLE 23 – POSITION ELIMINATION

- 23.1 In the event the Co-operative plans to eliminate positions, the Co-operative shall give the Union and the affected employees a minimum of one-hundred and twenty (120) calendar days notice or pay in lieu of a portion thereof or the entirety of such to the employee. When the notice referred to above indicates that ten percent (10%) or more of the employees are negatively affected, the Co-operative and the Union agree to meet within thirty (30) days to review the opportunities and options available to employees notwithstanding that a collective agreement is in place.

For clarity, this article is intended to apply to internal Co-operative reorganizations that result in the elimination of positions and is not applicable in the case of successorship, which shall be administered pursuant to the Saskatchewan Employment Act.

- 23.2 Position elimination will not become effective until after the notice period is complete.
- 23.3 An employee who receives notice of position elimination or layoff in accordance with this Article shall have the right to receive Co-operative-paid severance pay which shall be two (2) weeks' pay for each year of service, pro-rated for partial years. For the purposes of severance, service shall include all continuous service with the Co-operative.
- 23.4 An employee who receives notice of position elimination may endeavor to obtain an alternate position by bidding on vacancies in accordance with Article 12.
- 23.5 An employee who receives notice of position elimination in accordance with this Article who does not obtain another permanent position with the Co-operative prior to their employment termination date shall have the right to receive severance pay. Employees shall have the option of:
- a) Receiving severance and terminating employment upon completion of the notice period; or
 - b) Deferring the employment termination date and receipt of severance for six (6) months and receiving Supplemental Employment Benefits (SEB) in accordance

with Article 14.

- i) This option shall not extend the period of employment for purposes of severance calculation.
- ii) Employees who choose this option and accept a permanent position with the Co-operative prior to their employment termination date will not be eligible to receive severance.

23.6 The Co-operative shall notify employees on lay-off of any vacancies occurring in the bargaining unit subject to the employee ensuring the Co-operative is provided with a current telephone number and mailing address, including an email address.

23.7 Technological change shall be defined as:

- a) the introduction of equipment or material of a different nature or kind than that previously utilized by the employer in the operation of the work, undertaking or business; and
- b) a change in the manner in which the employer carries on the work, undertaking or business that is directly related to the introduction of that equipment or material.

23.8 This Article is intended to assist employees affected by technological change and accordingly The Saskatchewan Employment Act with respect to Technological Change do not apply during the term of the Agreement.

23.9 The Saskatchewan Employment Act with respect to Group Terminations do not apply during the term of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 24 – SCALE OF WAGES/SALARIES, JOB TITLES, SALARY RANGES AND CLASSIFICATIONS

- 24.1 The Scale of Wages/Salaries, Job Titles, Salary Ranges, and Classifications for employees covered by this agreement shall be set forth in Schedule A which shall form part of this Agreement.
- 24.2 The Co-operative shall notify the Union of any new job titles being introduced to the bargaining unit and any substantially changed job descriptions. The salary range for new or revised positions shall be subject to negotiations between the parties and negotiations shall commence respecting the new position within ten (10) calendar days.
- 24.3 Implementation of Salary Schedule A

The job titles, classifications and annual salary/wage ranges in Schedule A shall apply on the effective date as indicated in Schedule A or as otherwise agreed.

ARTICLE 25 – PART-TIME EMPLOYEES


- 25.1 Seniority for part-time employees will be calculated on the basis of eight (8) hours of work equaling one day service and shall, on completion of the probationary period, be counted from date of commencement.
- 25.2 Sick-leave entitlement for part-time employees will be earned on the basis of one and one-quarter ($1\frac{1}{4}$) day's entitlement (10 hours) for each one hundred and seventy-three (173) hours worked after achieving part-time status and will be available to the employee to maintain income for any scheduled work lost due to illness or injury.
- 25.3 Part-time employees will pay Union dues in accordance with the provisions herein.
- 25.4 Upon completion of ninety (90) working days, a part-time employee working at least fifteen (15) hours per week (averaged over the shift cycle), shall have access to the Plan B benefits.
- 25.5 Part-time employees will take part in the pension plan once qualified under the bylaws of the plan. These eligible employees shall be enrolled in the plan on the first day of the month following completion of the ninety (90) day service period.

ARTICLE 26 – EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT

Subject to ratification by the parties, which both parties agree to recommend to their respective principals:

This Agreement shall be effective from the 1st day of November 2022 and shall be valid until the 31st day of October, 2025, and thereafter from year to year unless a written notice is given by either party within the period of 120 to 60 days immediately preceding the date of expiration of the term of the Collective Agreement, of their desire to terminate this Agreement or negotiate a revision thereof, in which case this Agreement shall remain in effect without prejudice to any retroactive clause of a new Agreement until negotiations for revision or amendments hereto have been concluded and a new Agreement superseding this Agreement has been duly executed.


The amendments to the Collective Agreement, unless otherwise agreed, are effective upon the date of ratification by the parties.


Kristin Keating (Jun 27, 2023 13:13 MDT)

Grain and General Services Union

Mike Ward

Discovery Co-operative Limited


Nathan Ratuse (Jun 28, 2023 07:49 MDT)

Grain and General Services Union



Discovery Co-operative Limited

Brian Lark

Grain and General Services Union


richard bliss (Jun 26, 2023 14:51 MDT)

Discovery Co-operative Limited



Discovery Co-operative Limited

Discovery Co-operative Limited

SCHEDULE A

Employees shall be paid in the following salary ranges according to their classification. An employee's pay level within the range for the employee's classification will be determined based on the employee's demonstrated performance. The parties recognize the salary ranges and the salary paid to individual employees are minimums. **Amounts over the minimum will be based on the annual performance review of the organization, the location, and the employee. This determination will be made by the Senior Leadership Team.**

In the event of job reclassification, employees will be moved into the appropriate classification and will be paid in accordance with the corresponding salary range. In cases where employees are being paid a wage/salary below that of the new salary range, they shall be brought up to the minimum of the new salary range. In cases where employees are being paid a wage/salary above that of the new salary range, their salary shall be red circled until such time as their wage/salary is within the salary range, however, they will be provided with a lump sum payment in lieu of their annual wage/salary increase.

The Co-operative reserves the right to implement employee retention programs, share purchase programs, incentive plans and market supplement programs in its sole and absolute discretion.

DISCOVERY CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED COMPENSATION STRUCTURE

Effective November 1, 2022

Job Titles	Minimum	Maximum
	Annual	Annual
Sr. Agronomist	\$69,482	\$108,563
Agronomist	\$67,475	\$100,933
Agronomy Summer Student	\$39,375	\$61,522
Facility Assistant I	\$39,375	\$61,522
Facility Assistant II	\$55,345	\$86,477
Facility Sales and Admin	\$39,375	\$61,522
Manager - Trainee	\$62,051	\$96,953
Sales Representative Trainee	\$55,345	\$86,477
Sales Representative	\$62,051	\$96,953
Seasonal Operations Worker	\$39,375	\$61,522
Jr. Agronomist	\$45,760	\$87,360
Fertilizer Plant Operator	\$45,760	\$72,800

Effective November 1, 2023

Job Titles	Minimum	Maximum
	Annual	Annual
Sr. Agronomist	\$70,872	\$110,734
Agronomist	\$68,825	\$102,952
Agronomy Summer Student	\$40,163	\$62,753
Facility Assistant I	\$40,163	\$62,753
Facility Assistant II	\$56,452	\$88,206
Facility Sales and Admin	\$40,163	\$62,753
Manager - Trainee	\$63,292	\$98,892
Sales Representative Trainee	\$56,452	\$88,206
Sales Representative	\$63,292	\$98,892
Seasonal Operations Worker	\$40,163	\$62,753
Jr. Agronomist	\$46,675	\$89,107
Fertilizer Plant Operator	\$46,675	\$74,256

Effective November 1, 2024

Job Titles	Minimum	Maximum
	Annual	Annual
Sr. Agronomist	\$72,112	\$112,672
Agronomist	\$70,029	\$104,753
Agronomy Summer Student	\$40,865	\$63,851
Facility Assistant I	\$40,865	\$63,851
Facility Assistant II	\$57,440	\$89,750
Facility Sales and Admin	\$40,865	\$63,851
Manager - Trainee	\$64,399	\$100,623
Sales Representative Trainee	\$57,440	\$89,750
Sales Representative	\$64,399	\$100,623
Seasonal Operations Worker	\$40,865	\$63,851
Jr. Agronomist	\$47,492	\$90,667
Fertilizer Plant Operator	\$47,492	\$75,555

SCHEDULE B

Only provisions of this Agreement applying to temporary and casual employees are outlined in this Schedule B.

1. Article 5 - Maintenance of Membership

1. Temporary employees shall be paid within the range according to their classification. Payment above these minimums shall be at the discretion of the Co-operative.
2. A temporary employee as defined in Article 1.3 who is appointed to a Regular Full Time or Part-Time position as defined in Articles 1.1 and 1.2 shall have **their** seniority recognized from the date the employee was first hired provided that there is no interruption of service.
3. Temporary employees shall be eligible to participate in the Co-operative's benefit and pension plans provided **they are eligible to participate as per the terms and conditions of the plans.**
4. All other entitlements will be in accordance with the Saskatchewan Employment Act.