

GSU Locals 1 & 2 (Viterra)



September 12, 2023

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

UPDATE #28

September 11 Bargaining

Yesterday, we returned to the table with the employer to hear their response to our proposal on August 31, 2023, to receive their counteroffer. Unfortunately, Viterra came to the bargaining table with no counteroffer.

They indicated that they wouldn't provide us with another offer and are refusing to negotiate unless we make major concessions. Again, they are refusing to acknowledge how their employees are struggling to make ends meet, and are refusing to listen to the solutions proposed by members to resolve a host of workplace issues. Namely retention, recruitment, hours of work, and staffing.

It is a disappointing turn in these negotiations. We have always taken the high road and have come ready to bargain since day

one, even when the company wasn't ready.

If we look at the current state of working people in this Province, Country and beyond, workers can not wait another year. They can not wait while their employers rake in unprecedented profits. It is one thing to negotiate for improvements and make your contract better, but it is a whole different thing to negotiate for a living wage and some acknowledgement that workers are struggling needlessly.

Notice of Dispute

At the direction of the Local 1 Board of Delegates and the Local 2 Executive Committee, GSU has no option other than to file for notice of dispute in response to the company's inaction.

Notice of Dispute is filed with the Federal Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan and states that bargaining has stalled. A copy of the notice of dispute is attached below.

[Local 1 and 2 Notice of Dispute](#)

The next step is to begin conciliation, which is like bargaining with the assistance of a Federally appointed conciliator.

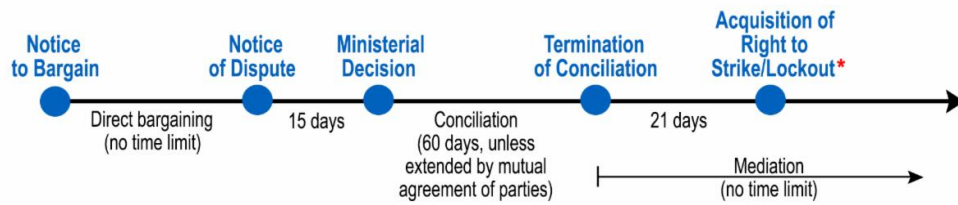
The link below is a document we provided members early on in the bargaining process called "What Happens When Bargaining Breaks Down?". Check it out again; it will help everyone have a better idea of what takes place in the weeks that follow.

[What Happens When Bargaining Breaks Down?](#)

The graphic of the conciliation process lays out the steps we have to take. We have to now wait for a response from the Minister of Labour and the appointment of a conciliator or a Board of Conciliation. Then we enter into conciliation for 60 days - or more if agreed to by both parties - and then the conciliator will report back to the Minister of Labour. After a cooling-off period, the company can engage in a lockout, and we can call for strike action once we have a membership vote authorizing it.

Collective Bargaining Process

Canada Labour Code Part 1



*Right to strike/lockout cannot be exercised until:

- 1) Strike vote is taken
- 2) 72 hour notice has been given

Throughout the conciliation process, we will keep members up to date.

Your bargaining process will work through this and continue pushing for acceptable wage increases and improvements to your contract that are sorely needed.

What now?

Your Local 1 Board of Delegates and Local 2 Executive Committee will be working to organize their Locals. This includes sharing information from their Sub-Locals with GSU staff and getting their members informed and ready should we get to a lockout or strike.

Your Defense Fund Board of Directors will meet and prepare the Defense Fund to support members should we get to a strike or lockout. This is precisely why we have a Defense Fund, to support GSU members when they need it the most.

You and your co-workers should keep doing what you have been doing. Keep up the pressure on your managers by telling them what we need from these negotiations. It is even more important now to keep talking to your co-workers, talk to your newer staff and help them understand what has been going on in the previous years, and understand that you all have value and contribute to the success of the company and deserve to be treated with respect and to continue to support each other at work and keep speaking with a unified voice.

As we are working through conciliation, please keep in contact with your elected officers. They will have information and instructions on how to organize your workplace so all members are prepared.

If you have any questions, contact your GSU staff representative or a member of the bargaining committee.

On Behalf of your Bargaining Committee,

Steve Torgerson
GSU General Secretary

Your GSU bargaining committee members are Local 1 - Jim Brown (Balgonie), Wilfred Harris (Carnduff), Shannon Antonenko (Lloydminster), David Barrett (Gull Lake), Dale Lysitza (Lloydminster), Broc Goodwin (Moose Jaw) 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 or by clicking below.

[Past Bargaining Updates Found Here](#)

Follow Me



[Unsubscribe_gsu@gsu.ca](mailto:unsubscribe_gsu@gsu.ca)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by steve@gsu.ca powered by



Try email marketing for free today!