



Your Bargaining Committee

National Rep –Gord Hunter

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**Vice-President - Kevin
McLeod**

Blaine Stevens - Saskatoon

**John Hagel (Representing Al-
berta and B.C.)**

**Arnie Chapman (Representing
Saskatchewan and Manitoba)**

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Gord Hunter Regina

Gib Todd Calgary

Don Boucher Edmonton

Joy Langan Vancouver

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BARGAINING UPDATE

Committees Meet Again in January

The Union and the Company through their respective negotiating committees met January 30th and 31st in Saskatoon in an attempt to reach agreement on our proposed changes to the collective agreement. Unfortunately we were not successful. After reviewing what the company labeled as their “final offer”, your committee felt that we would be best served by applying to the Minister of Labour, asking that a conciliator be appointed to help find an agreement that both sides can live with. That application will be filed February 3rd.

It is worth noting that several issues have been resolved and improvements have been made to contract language dealing with

- Paid time for attending Safety Meetings and compliance training.
- Insurance for Mechanics tools
- Bereavement Leave
- Streamlined Grievance procedure
- And increases for safety boot allowance

And a fairly large number of other issues.

There are still several important issues outstanding, not the least of which is wages. The company has offered some quite significant wage increases to the rates paid some highway drivers, particularly those driving to the USA. They have not, however offered branch drivers, some open dispatch drivers, city drivers, warehouse workers and mechanics an increase which would make up for the losses most have experienced as a result of inflation.

We do not want to negotiate through newsletters but we cannot forget that we have not seen an increase since 2001 and our increases over the last 5 years have been significantly less than most other workers in Canada, who have seen increases of 10% to 15% during that same period.

Some of the other issues we have not yet come to agreement on are

- Waiting time
- Increases to vacation entitlement
- Jurisdiction
- Pension increases
- Seniority issues regarding assignment of work and layoff and recall
- New hires have no ability to get wage parity with other drivers.
- Sick leave.

We expect a conciliator to be appointed with the next two weeks. The conciliator must either reach an agreement or book out within 60 days. After the conciliation process is complete we will be coming back to the membership to seek your advice.

