

October 1, 2008

COMPANY AMENDS OFFER, BUT STRIKE WILL COMMENCE. CALGARY WILL STRIKE TOO!!

The Company has changed its so called final offer – but it's not enough to stop the commencement of a strike.

On Wednesday, October 01 at Union negotiations, Superstore brought Safeway wages to the bargaining table. One victory has been won.

But unfortunately, the company continues to REFUSE TO GUARANTEE SUBSTANTIAL NIGHT, WEEKEND, DAYTIME AVAILABLE ANYTIME AND OTHER PREMIUMS that employees have come to depend upon as a critical part of their income!

Employees risk paycheck rollbacks when premiums are not guaranteed. The Company continues to refuse to fix their payroll system.

The Union has always said that a substantial improvement in a Company offer would be voted before a strike would commence. But any offer that potentially reduces an employee's paycheck is not an improvement, let alone a substantial one.

The Union has said that there must be three elements to a new contract. Workers must receive REAL dignity and respect. Safeway wages must be there, but wages have no real value if you end up with a ROLLBACK, because you lost one, two, three, five or six dollars per hour in premiums just months into a new collective agreement. A new contract must have dignity and respect rights, Safeway wage increases as a minimum, and no risk of premium losses and other takeaways and concessions. Two out of the critical elements to form a collective agreement are missing. A strike mandate of 94% cannot be ignored!

In these circumstances, the strike will commence in Edmonton at 12:01am on Monday Oct 6 (just past midnight Oct 5th). The strike will commence in Calgary Tuesday Oct 7th at 12:01am (just past midnight on Oct 6th).

Meetings will be scheduled very soon thereafter in Edmonton and Calgary to have a vote on the Company offers while the strike is ongoing. If the offer is accepted the strike will end. If not, the strike will continue.

Union negotiators not surprisingly, recommend rejection of the offer. The offer has improved but no real Union can recommend a possible paycheck rollback in this economy and given the incredible effort that Superstore employees have made to keep the stores operating and successful in difficult times.

Union members will decide whether or not to accept the new deal but given strong employee input over the last number of weeks Union negotiators are confident that a strong majority of superstore and Liquor Store employees will reject this offer.

At the end of the day, make no mistake about it, your Union is a fighting Union. While your Company might not pay attention, we will not ignore your 94% strike vote!