

# **Union calls for Superstore negotiations to avoid a strike!**

Doug O' Halloran, President of UFCW Local 401, has submitted a letter to Dave Graf, Loblaws Director of Labour Relations for Western Canada, calling for negotiations to avoid a strike at Alberta SS and liquor stores.

The letter, submitted yesterday, is self explanatory. Your Union is arguing that the strong strike votes out of Edmonton and Calgary should provoke a responsible and sensible company to reevaluate its bargaining perspective for the whole province.

The letter reads as follows:

*September 24, 2008*

**Via Fax Only**

*David Graf  
Labour Relations  
Westfair Foods Ltd.  
PO Box 300, Station 'M'  
Calgary, AB T2P 2H9*

**Re: Collective Bargaining – Edmonton and Calgary Superstore and Liquor Stores**

*Dear Sir:*

*We have been disturbed by some recent company conduct.*

*Firstly, the company has recently and improperly presented some elements of its offer to employees before we were able to do so. The company letter that was distributed in Edmonton and Calgary was inaccurate and misleading. In addition, our duly authorized representatives were blocked and hindered by the company in their efforts to communicate with our members about this critical matter.*

*Notwithstanding the company's behavior and your implied threat of a lockout we have none the less received strong strike mandates from our membership in Edmonton and Calgary.*

*We note from your direct correspondence with our members in Calgary that you are suggesting that the company's offer was preceded by a request to our union to provide bargaining priorities. You made no such request. In fact the company showed no interest in participating in collective bargaining or the mediation process in our meetings with Steve Morrison.*

*Notwithstanding my comments, we are, of course, ready, willing, and able to negotiate. As we have indicated we are prepared to amend our positions regarding all bargaining units and our current positions are anything but final.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to invite the company to return to the bargaining table. There is no sense in having a dispute until meaningful negotiations have taken place.*

*If you are prepared to meet and negotiate please advise me immediately. We will be available until October 3, 2008, after that our time will be spent preparing for the picket line and we will not be available to negotiate.*

*If the company is serious about wanting to get a deal we have a window of opportunity to do this early next week otherwise your arrogance at the bargaining table will have caused this unnecessary strike.*

*Sincerely,*

*Douglas O'Halloran  
President  
UFCW Local 401*

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*cc Union Reps  
Theresa McLaren  
Tom Hesse  
Bargaining Committee members*