

Sobeys Forest Lawn IGA

## Bargaining Update

Bargaining continued between the Employer your Union bargaining committee on August 11 and 12, 2010.

During those meetings the Company appeared focused on a “finger pointing” strategy. In particular, they complained about the lack of progress being made and the fact that they wanted the Union to begin reviewing our own positions and removing proposals.

It turns out that the Union however, had only a few outstanding proposals to the many that the Company had remaining. Also, the Union had advanced some **thirty - three (33) available days** to hold bargaining, and the Company responded by agreeing to only **two (2) days per month** in August, September and October. We have become somewhat accustomed to the Employer tactic of “pointing the finger” in our direction. What’s interesting however is had they bothered to review their own positions, they may discover that they should be pointing fingers at themselves!

The parties did however make what we consider to be significant progress on some outstanding non-money issues, and at this point in the process we are ready to move onto monetary items. For example, items such as wages, benefits and premiums we expect to discuss in the coming dates. Your committee has advanced a number of proposals on your behalf, requesting improvements in these areas. Unfortunately, the Company seems intent on either rolling back or maintaining the status quo on many of these issues. They have also suggested that they are seeking to write language in the agreement which would allow Sales Reps more flexibility to perform your work and continue to want **concessions on paid time off, Sunday work and premiums as well as even suggesting a seven (7) year contract.**

We intend to hold to the mandate which you have given us to seek improvements to the wage and compensation package in the Collective Agreement, and to ultimately fight off the Employer’s attempts at concessions.

Bargaining is set to continue on **September 8 and 9, 2010** and we hope to continue to progress towards achieving a recommended settlement which we can ultimately bring to you for your acceptance.

Please watch the Union bulletin board or visit our website ([www.gounion.ca](http://www.gounion.ca)) for more updates.