

January 31, 2011

Safeway Union Members

The week of January 24th, 2011 your union negotiating committee met with Canada Safeway Management to try and reach a contract offer. Both committees worked very hard and a number of issues were resolved. However after eighteen hour days it was decided on Saturday morning at 2:00 a.m. we had reached a cross roads. Canada Safeway and your Union both agreed that we should ask the government to appoint a mediation officer to try and close the gap separating both sides. The issues outstanding from your Union's point of view are benefits, wages, and length of contract. The Union is looking for a three year agreement and Canada Safeway wants a five year agreement. On wages, the Union is asking for a \$1.00 per hour increase per year as well as additional money to certain categories and Canada Safeway's offer is substantially different. We are also asking for increases and benefit coverage ie., eyeglasses, chiropractic, massage, physiotherapy, etc. While we should not panic we should start looking at the possibility of a strike. It would be wise to delay any large purchases until the summer. It will probably take a couple of months at least to get mediation done. If we cannot reach a contract settlement in mediation we will be asking the mediator to write out and apply for a strike vote. This does not mean you will be on strike. You the members will make the final decision. At some point we will provide you with 'We are on strike alert' buttons for you to wear. In order to reach your goals we will need to stick together.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas O'Halloran
President

Theresa McLaren
Secretary Treasurer

Your Bargaining Committee