

## **Government Appoints Mediator in PTI Buffalo Métis Catering Union Negotiations.**

Upon the request of UFCW Local 401, the Alberta Government, through its authority under the Alberta Labour Relations Code, has appointed a mediator to be involved in Union-Management negotiations for PTI lodge employees.

Both the Company and the Union bargaining committee will be at a first mediation session scheduled by the mediator on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Edmonton.

Under Alberta law, mediation is a mandatory process that must be utilized, among others, before a Union can strike or a Company can lock out its employees.

Employees have told UFCW Local 401 to continue to push at the bargaining table, and that they will not settle on the current company offer.

Union officials have often been critical of the mediation process. In our view, it is one of many obstacles to fair worker power. Generally the law in Alberta with respect to labour relations is very weighted in favour of employers, allowing them to slow, unfairly influence, and create obstacles for workers in their Union negotiations.

Having said this, there can be occasions, however few, where mediation helps achieve a settlement. We will approach the process with cautious optimism.

Stand by for more updates.