

Palace Casino Union negotiations update

Negotiations for a new Collective Agreement at the Palace Casino commenced on Monday, January 11th and wrapped up on January 14th. The Union sent a bargaining team to represent your interests at the negotiating table. They include Tom Hesse, chief negotiator, Christine McMeckan, Union Representative and negotiator and the following Employees from the Palace Casino:

Catherine Darker, Gaming
Chrissy Thompson, Food & Beverage
Roseline Richardson, Gaming
Gerry Hryschuk, Gaming
Hellen Shiloff, Gaming
Mike Woolridge, Slots
Gail Hussum, Slots

The company brought:

Trevor West, chief negotiator
Steve Rowbotham
Rhonda Woychuk
Candice McBride

While the parties have met previously in December to discuss the bargaining process and exchange some opening comments, this was the first time where real issues were considered.

This week the Union and the company exchange proposals and canvassed a number of your critical workplace concerns. The Union brought over 50 issues to the table and the company tabled a package of proposals that included 39 topics for discussion. Union proposals were gathered from Palace Casino workers themselves who, through surveys, and special meetings, asked their Union to bring their proposals to the Employer.

Company proposals were generally positive but did include some contentious issues that bring concern to your Union's bargaining committee. However, it is too early in the process to make any conclusive statements about the company's approach as many more meetings will still be required to fully understand the company's wants, whether or not they are truly serious about those wants, and whether or not their proposals might be modified or withdrawn in the bargaining process.

Some of the specific issues dealt with this week included, bereavement leave, compassionate leave, and other leaves of absence. We also discussed and negotiated matters that relate to video surveillance. The company's approach to dress code and uniforms was scrutinised by the Union and your criticisms were advanced. Preliminary discussions on the issue of job descriptions and health and safety concerns also took place.

Should you wish to discuss bargaining in more detail or review the company's or Union's proposals please contact your Union Representative Christine McMeckan. Please be advised, though, that some bargaining matters cannot be discussed due to privacy concerns. Sometimes individual circumstances are described at the bargaining table to provide evidence for Union proposals. Those individuals have the right to have their privacy protected. On the other hand please also be assured that we will be keeping you up to date with respect to the process of collective bargaining as we know and understand that this is your job and you have a critical interest in knowing what's going on.

Additional bargaining dates are scheduled during the week of February 22nd.

Sincerely,

Your Union bargaining committee