

Sobeys Forest Lawn

Bargaining Update for Unionized employees of Forest Lawn IGA

On September 8 and 9, 2010 your Union bargaining committee met with your Employer to continue negotiations.

The union was cautiously optimistic that the meetings would produce some positive results as the parties were very close to discussing monetary items as we stated in our last update. Unfortunately for us, it didn't quite work the way that we had hoped. The Company continues to push forward a **concessionary agenda**, as stated in our last update, which includes the ability for Sales reps to take your work away from you and roll backs in paid time off. They also continue to push for a 7 year contract which includes roll backs on voluntary Sunday work and increases to the basic workweek for some employees while eliminating ATO for others.

Your committee has a number of monetary demands on the table and we continue to push for improvements in these areas for you.

It has been a tough road to this point to say the least and bargaining has been progressing very slowly. One reason for this is that some of us are developing a distinct lack of trust for the people on the Employer's side of the table.

We repeatedly receive documents from the Employer which contain errors and typos. These errors appear to be conveniently made in the Employer's favour. It's hard for **us** to believe that they are always accidental. We have also received documents which retreat, or go backwards, from positions that the Employer has already provided to the Union. Therefore we are forced to scrutinize each and every document with a "fine toothed comb" to ensure that the Employer has not made another one of their "convenient" typos. This is time consuming to say the least, but your contract is very important to us and we will continue to spend the necessary time to ensure that it is done right.

Also, the Employer claimed to be unavailable for the majority of dates that the Union offered for bargaining back in June, but has just now asked that we meet for some of the very same dates which they refused to be available for over three months ago! Needless to say, the Union had already given those dates away. Perhaps they read our last update or perhaps they are just playing games, we are not sure??

The Union is now looking forward to our next set of dates on **October 5 and 6**, where we assume we will be right into the meat of the money items. There is however no guarantee that the Company will adopt a different approach with respect to their concessionary demands. Only time will tell.

Please watch for further updates on the board and on [www.gounion.ca](http://www.gounion.ca) and as always, if you have any questions about bargaining, please contact Joe at the Union office.

Sincerely,

Your Bargaining Committee