

Sister and Brothers,

Your bargaining committee spent Monday and Tuesday of this week in negotiations with Expertech. We were in the Ottawa office, following social distancing and COVID friendly protocols, and we met with the employer through Webex, with the help of interpreters.

During those two days we discussed issues surrounding the common employer application as well as non-monetary demands that we started discussing in the fall of 2018.

We will be returning to Ottawa next Monday and Tuesday to continue those discussions.

As part of this week's bulletin, we would like to provide some information to help answer some recurring questions we are receiving.

1. What happened to the common employer application? The common employer application is still filed with the CIRB. Due to COVID-19 there has been an extended delay in getting hearings with the Board. Expertech and Bell Canada had indicated to the National Union that they would be interested in discussing the common employer application with both, the Clerical and Craft groups, as well as working towards a new collective agreement. The Union agreed that this made sense, as many times when a board application is filed the parties are asked to try and work out an agreement before the CIRB imposes one on the parties. Due to COVID-19, there are strict limitations on the numbers of people who can be in one room – due to the smaller size of the Clerical committee we decided it made sense to start there to give some more time for meeting restrictions to be lifted in all areas. The Common Employer application would only be rescinded if we can come to an agreement on issues in both the Clerical and Craft groups.
2. Retroactivity: We understand that it has been almost two years since we started negotiations and that the Common Employer application has extended this round of bargaining. As in any round of negotiations that extends past the end date of the collective agreement, it is the union's position that there should be retroactivity and we will be working towards that end.

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Please note that our next bargaining sessions will be on these dates:

- Monday and Tuesday June 29th and 30th
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday July 13th, 14th and 15th.

We will send out another update after our meetings with the Company next week.

In solidarity,

Your Bargaining Committee

Our strength lies in our solidarity!