

## **BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2006**

We are set to go into mediation at the Labour Board with Custom Paper next Monday. Hopefully we will get a deal that is acceptable to the members.

We are also getting ready for bargaining with Sonoco. Agenda questionnaires have been sent out and the Committee members from the three plants will be in the office on Monday November 27th to draft up an agenda to take to the members for approval. Our contract is not up until the end of February, 2007, but we are trying to get agendas exchanged before the end of this year.

We have been challenged at Sonoco in that our Committee member at Port Mellon has been diagnosed with a serious illness and is not available for the foreseeable future. We are in the process of electing an alternate Committee member to take over in the interim. If we start bargaining with the Alternate, then we will continue on with the Alternate until the bargaining is complete.

At Crown we have two outstanding termination grievances, both of which are headed for arbitration. We also have the outstanding "trigger issue", which looks like it will be resolved shortly. The Committee also managed to resolve an outstanding grievance regarding an employee who was refused a transfer into another department. This was a difficult issue and the Committee did a good job getting this resolved.

At Norampac we have two termination grievances which we are dealing with. As well, their Plant Manager is now leaving the plant to work in the Norampac Calgary plant.

At Pliant, we just won a fairly major victory regarding one of the women who works in the Bag Plant. She had been off work for a substantial period of time with an illness. She wanted to come back to work on a GRTW and the Company would only grant her a one week GRTW. Just before the arbitration the Company relented and brought her back on a GRTW approved by her dr. and further the Company paid her back pay.

They are also facing some layoffs at Pliant and there were some rumours that there would be a Christmas shutdown. The employer has now told me they do not have any plans to shut down at Christmas.

At Unisource they are dealing with a number of grievances at second step. I am waiting to hear if a third step meeting will be required.

At Buckeye we still have a number of issues the Committee is dealing with, and I am scheduled to go and see Dan Rogers with our Maintenance representative on the Committee regarding some Maintenance issues.

At Sulzer we have some concerns about supervisors doing our work, and some other, related issues. I will be working with the Committee to sort through this.

At Iron Mountain we will be proof reading the Collective Agreement next week.

ACR Group is very slow right now but they do not have anyone on layoff.

At Borden we have a couple of outstanding grievances I am working with the Committee on. We also have some fairly serious member vs. member issues.

At Pioneer we had a recent termination of a long term employee. The employee walked off the job and did not report back to work. He was phoned a number of times and the employer finally sent out a letter giving him 72 hours to let them know his intentions. The employer did not hear back so the employee was terminated.

At Western News the Company's lease is expiring in March of 2007 and there are some concerns about its' renewal.

We are anticipating that we may be getting a new certification in the very near future. This is a pharmaceutical company. There are still some issues being worked out at the LRB, and the certification vote has not yet been counted, but we believe we will win the vote when it is finally counted. If we do in fact get this certification, it will mean bargaining another first agreement, which most of you know is a very time consuming process.

Myself, James Monks, and Gino Bianchini also attended the recent Wage Caucus meeting held in Vancouver on November 8th and 9th. Nothing major to report other than the Pulp Mills are starting to get ready to go into bargaining. The Collective Agreement does not expire until 2008, and Catalyst is already trying to wring concessions out of the Local Unions. This is looking to be a very difficult set of bargaining.