

BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER, 2007

At Western News we now have a ratified closure agreement in place. The employees are set to leave at the end of September, although a couple of employees will most likely be kept on for dismantling.

At Jamp Pharma we have now met with the Committee and prepared a counter proposal for the Company. We have been trying to get a meeting set up, which is proving to be difficult. I cannot see this taking more than one meeting as there are not many issues left. I would suspect that we will either get an agreement or need to go a different route.

At Pioneer we are set to go back into bargaining in early October.

At Crown Packaging we just had a long term employee terminated once again. This termination was for absenteeism and a grievance will be put in.

At Unisource I am in the process of setting up a third step grievance meeting.

At Sulzer we have ongoing issues around temporary employees. I expect this will be an issue in bargaining next year.

At ECP LP we have a number of issues and grievances we are dealing with. Have set up a meeting with the employer for the middle of October.

Buckeye is in the process of hiring three new operations employees and I believe an ad will go in the weekend paper.

At ACR Group we are working with an employee who is having difficulty with his WI and WCB.

At Iron Mountain we are working with an employee who was on WCB and is looking at getting reintegrated back into the workplace.

At Montenay the Company has agreed to promote two of our members while they are in the process of acquiring the appropriate qualifications.

I was also just made aware that Ralph Elke, the Labour Relations Consultant who did the bargaining for Vision Packaging, passed away last week. Our condolences go out to his family.

In other news, the Wage Caucus has now decided we will no longer be pursuing an early agreement with Canfor. We had been looking to see if this might be possible, but the only way we were interested was if the employer agreed they would not table any proposals and they said there were some issues they needed to have addressed. There were some other obstacles as well, so the consensus was that this was just not worth pursuing and we will follow a normal type of bargaining process.

Myself, Otto Wittenberg, and Mike Beniach will be leaving this coming Saturday for our Western Region Conference in Edmonton. We will have full report for you at our next Union meeting.

And finally I would like to make note that Jim Britton is currently extremely busy bargaining with Local 601 and 697.