

A message from the Executive Committee and Bargaining Team regarding proposals

On January 11th we held a Special General Membership Meeting to discuss nine outstanding bargaining proposals that had yet to receive approval from the Membership or that had been sent back to the Bargaining Team to revise. Because the meeting failed to reach quorum, no decisions around these proposals could be made. Consequently, the Bargaining Team requested an Executive decision on the outstanding proposals. The Executive, in consultation with the Bargaining Team, subsequently passed six of these proposals, withdrew one, and tabled two to the January 26th GMM.

The six passed proposals were all amendments suggested by members at previous GMMs. The two tabled proposals, on the other hand, were major amendments put forth by the BT, which have yet to be discussed by members at a GMM. Finally, the withdrawn proposal, an amendment put forward by the BT, was ruled out of order by the Executive given that a prior GMM had requested the proposal be dropped, not revised.

We assure you, neither the BT nor the Executive took this decision lightly. We are all committed to a bottom-up, member driven process and have done our best to facilitate this. The proposals passed last week by the Executive have all been on the agenda for the last three SGMMs – some have been on the agenda since September – but for a number of reasons (long discussions, amendments, revisions, loss of quorum, lack of quorum, etc.) have never been officially voted on.

At this point, we have been negotiating in earnest with the Employer since November and we would like to begin the process of refining our demands. This has been made difficult by the fact that we have yet to table nine proposals. In fact, due to the intersecting nature of our demands, we reserved on a further ten Membership-approved proposals which tie in to these remaining nine. In effect, this means we have been unable to begin bargaining on several of the priority areas approved at previous GMMs. This, and this alone, was the reason that we voted on these proposals at the Executive level.

The approved proposals will be brought to the GMM on January 26th and we encourage members to come to this meeting to express any questions or concerns you might have. Further, we encourage the active involvement of members in both bargaining and in the Union more generally. Please get involved by coming to GMMs or Bargaining sessions, joining Stewards Council, or organizing a departmental consultation. We hope to see you on the 26th.

