

VIA Rail Unifor Members overwhelmingly support Bargaining Committee

Sisters and Brothers,

Local 100 and National Council 4000 Unifor members working at VIA Rail attended information and strike vote meetings across Canada over the past couple of weeks. These meetings were extremely well attended and our members, after receiving a comprehensive report from the bargaining committees, expressed their full support of the Unifor Bargaining Committee as we move towards being in a legal strike or lockout position no earlier than June 13th, 2016 – 00:01 hours.

The results of these votes are as follows:

Agreement No.1 – 96% in favour of strike action if necessary

Agreement No.2 – 96% in favour of strike action if necessary

Agreement No.3 – 96% in favour of strike action if necessary

It is important to note that no strike or lockout can occur until 72 hours' notice, by either side has been issued. Neither the union nor the employer has of yet, issued the 72 hours' notice to the other party.

Each of the bargaining committees resumed negotiations on the outstanding work rules with VIA Rail commencing Monday June 6, 2016, in Gatineau, Quebec. Both Local 100 and National Council 4000 are prepared to remain at the bargaining table with VIA Rail until a tentative agreement is reached or a strike or lockout has occurred. The parties are assisted by two Federal conciliators who have been with us throughout the process. We continue to remain optimistic that a settlement will be reached, but we must be fully prepared if, in fact, VIA does not respect the proposals of the members in VIA.

Regular conference calls with Council 4000 National Strike Coordinator Ken Cameron and Local 100 National Strike Coordinator Chris Garrod and strike captains have begun, putting in place first measures in the event there is a dispute. Further conference calls are being arranged so that everyone is kept up to date.

We would ask once again that you listen to your local leadership, don't believe rumours and innuendos. We will be reporting on a regular basis through the RailLine, as we move through the bargaining process and will notify you of the status of the talks and if or when the 72 hours' notice has been issued and a legal strike or lockout date has been set.

In closing, we want to thank our members for the strong show of solidarity and support and rest assured we will work diligently on your behalf in an attempt to reach a settlement. The question remains whether or not VIA will do the same?

In solidarity,

On behalf of Local 100 and National Council 4000 Bargaining Committees