



Bargaining Update September 17th, 2007

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Overview

There are ratified settlements in respect to **20** of the **24** trade jurisdictions in the sector for which there are active registration certificates. A memorandum of settlement, subject to ratification, is pending in **1** other trade jurisdiction. Almost all of the settlements have been accepted by strong margins.

Ratification Processes:

In voting on the weekend, the **Labourers** ratified the terms of their August 30th memorandum.

Settlements Pending Ratification:

The **Boilermakers** have agreed to terms of settlement with the BCA, subject to ratification. The parties are recommending acceptance. The ratification process will be completed on October 4th.

Reference of Disputes to a Construction Industry Dispute Resolution Tribunal:

On September 5th, and again on September 11th, we requested that Minister Iris Evans appoint a CIDRT, and refer the outstanding disputes to that tribunal for settlement. On September 12th, the Minister established a CIDRT with Andrew Sims, QC as chair, and referred all outstanding disputes to the tribunal. The CIDRT will endeavour to assist the parties to resolve each of these disputes. If any of the disputes is not settled by agreement, the CIDRT will issue a binding award.

Sidespeople are being nominated to the CIDRT by the parties to the remaining disputes. We would expect that the CIDRT will commence its proceedings fairly soon.

One of the effects of the reference of disputes to the CIDRT is that no strike or lockout in respect to the disputes can commence or continue.

Unlawful Activity:

On September 5th, the Carpenters union served notice on our office that the **Carpenters** and **Roofers** would commence a strike at 10:00 a.m. September 8th. We responded with a complaint to the Labour Relations Board that the notice was threat of unlawful strike. In the wake of a hearing into that complaint on September 6th, the LRB issued its decision on September 7th, to the effect that the notice was not in compliance with the *Labour Relations Code*, and directed that they may not serve notice nor engage in a strike until such time as they comply with the provisions of the *Code*. The LRB directed the union to take immediate steps to inform their members.

On Saturday, September 8th, workers on a Fort McMurray area site nevertheless commenced striking and picketing. Through the week of September 10th, striking and picketing was carried on at more than 10 other sites, interrupting work and causing major damages. Cease and desist orders were issued by the LRB in respect to all of these sites, and on September 13th, the LRB issued a province wide order, including:

- *All of those who are members of or represented by the Unions and performing general construction or maintenance work in Alberta shall not strike or engage in other strike activity, and shall immediately cease striking.*
- *No person shall picket at any general construction site or maintenance site in Alberta.*
- *No person shall obstruct, blockade, or interfere with the free flow of vehicle traffic or persons into any general construction or maintenance site in Alberta.*
- *The Edmonton Police Service and the RCMP are requested to enforce this order.*

Picketing and striking have been carried on in defiance of this global order last week and today. Various responses are being discussed.

Settlements:

The terms of the ratified settlements for **Bricklayers – General, Cement Masons, Glassworkers, Operating Engineers** and **Tilesetters** were reported in the May 1st Bargaining Update, as were the terms of the first memorandum for the Plumbers & Pipefitters.

The terms of the ratified settlement with the **Elevator Constructors** were reported in the May 25th Bargaining Update.

The settlement framework for the ratified settlements for **Bricklayers – Refractory, Insulators, Ironworkers – Structural, Ironworkers – Reinforcing, Operating Engineers – Crane Rental** (specialty sector), **Plasterers, Sheet Metal Workers, Sheeters & Cladders**, and **Teamsters** was reported in the June 21st Bargaining Update.

The settlement framework for the **Boilermakers, Electricians, Labourers**, and **Millwrights** was reported in the August 13th Bargaining Update.

Status of Settlements:

The current situation in respect to settlements and pending settlements is as follows:

Group 1:

Boilermakers

Elevator Constructors

Millwrights

Plumbers / Pipefitters

Sheet Metal

Electricians

Ironworkers- Structural

Operating Engineers

Refrigeration Mechanics

Sprinkler Fitters

Group 2:

Bricklayers-Refractory

Insulators

Plasterers

Tile Setters

Glassworkers

Painters

Sheeters / Cladders

Group 3:

Bricklayers-General

Cement Masons

Labourers

Teamsters

Carpenters

Ironworkers-Rebar

Roofers

[**Bold** indicates settled. ***Bold Italics*** indicates settled and ratified.]

Trade Tables

Boilermakers: The parties have agreed on the terms of settlement, and are recommending acceptance. The ratification process will be completed on October 4th.

Carpenters: Strike notice was served by the Carpenters and Roofers. The notice and any strike commencing in accordance with the notice were determined to be unlawful. Unlawful strikes commenced on the date indicated in the notice, and have been ongoing in defiance of orders and directives issued by the LRB and filed with the Court. The dispute has been referred by the Minister to a Construction Industry Dispute Resolution Tribunal.

Plumbers & Pipefitters: The dispute has been referred by the Minister to a Construction Industry Dispute Resolution Tribunal.

Roofers: The dispute has been referred by the Minister to a Construction Industry Dispute Resolution Tribunal. An application for a LRB conducted vote on the last offer by the CLR was opposed by the union and dismissed by the LRB.

Please call either Association office for any clarification or further information, or with information to be included in the next Update. All staff can also be contacted by direct e-mail.