

TEAM-IFPTE Local 161

Key Updates

March 19, 2013

Contract Negotiations: Since exchanging high-level proposals on January 18th, our Negotiating Committee has met with MTS on eight occasions (February 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, and March 5 & 6). To this point only non-monetary items have been discussed. A number of important non-monetary items still need to be addressed.

Future negotiating dates are scheduled for March 20, 21, April 2-4, and April 9-11. It is likely that monetary proposals will be discussed during the April sessions. Further dates will be scheduled as required.

Pension Lawsuit: The appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) is scheduled for May 16th, 2013. Our factum i.e. the Appellant's Factum for TEAM, IBEW, CEP, and retirees, was filed with the SCC on March 4th. MTS' factum must be filed by the end of April. Representatives from the unions and the retirees will attend the hearing. Legal counsel will attend the next Board meeting to provide a synopsis of the proceeding and explain what happens next.

Case information and facts are available on the [SCC website](#). The main text of our factum is available on the [website](#). For anyone wishing to gain a thorough understanding of the case, this 40 page document is recommended reading.

Call-out Arbitration: On January 18th the arbitration panel rendered an award in favour of MTS. The decision was not unanimous, and based on the dissenting opinion, other factors, and the impact on member income and work-life balance, we filed for Judicial Review of the award on February 21st.

Membership meetings were held in Winnipeg on February 28th and March 1st to explain the implications of this decision and MTS' stated intent to change call-out payments following the conclusion of negotiations. The Overtime and Call-out meeting presentation, Arbitration Award and Dissent are available [here](#).

New Contractor Letter of Understanding: Progress continues to be made towards an agreement, albeit slowed by the contract negotiations. The fundamental requirements for TEAM members, developed by the Contractor Working Group, continue to be our focus.

Human Rights Commission Tribunal Ruling in Favour of TEAM Member: Interest owing to our member has yet to be resolved. We have a major difference of opinion on whether the administrative judge ordered payment of missed pension contributions or reinstatement of lost retirement benefit. The value of latter is approximately ten times greater than that of the former. If we cannot reach agreement with MTS, we will have to re-attend before the Tribunal.
