

BC INTERIOR

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BC INTERIOR FOREST INDUSTRY NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDE AFTER ALMOST A YEAR OF TALKS

With eleven months of collective bargaining with a number of BC interior forest products manufacturing companies finally behind them, the United Steelworkers BC Interior Bargaining Committee is standing down after the last round of bargaining has been completed. During the month of February and March, CONIFER companies—representing Tolko Industries, Conifex, Lakeland Mills, Dunkley Lumber, Carrier Lumber—and Steelworkers members in the Williams Lake and Prince George regions of the province accepted a deal patterned on earlier agreements.

This final deal concludes a lengthy bargaining process for BC Interior forest workers that not only stretched out for eleven months, but extended into all regions of the province covering almost 9,000 members. Beginning with Canadian Forest Products in May 2013, the BC Interior Bargaining Committee established a pattern of improved working conditions and benefits that cemented the foundation for agreements which have just now been completed.

Negotiations with the both the IFLRA and Canfor concluded one after the other in late November and early December with West Fraser inking a tentative agreement in late January. Although main table bargaining has now concluded, the BC Interior Bargaining Committee remains on standby to assist any interior local unions with their remaining Independents.

USW Local 1-1937 and Local 1-85 begin talks with Vancouver Island based Western Forest Products and Forest Industrial Relations when their current agreements expire on June 15th and it's expected that the pattern bargained in the BC Interior will provide the union a good place to start bargaining. USW Local 2009 is slated to enter into bargaining for an agreement with International Forest Products for their Acorn Forest Products and Hammond Cedar lower mainland operations which also comes to term mid-June.

The BC Interior Bargaining Committee is very satisfied with the enhancements to the collective agreements that were negotiated as a packaged-pattern across a number of bargaining tables.

