

USW/City of Kimberley Negotiations  
USW 1-405

## **Bargaining reaches impasse with City of Kimberley**

*Special Vacation; Training; Pay Equity and Job Evaluation key obstacles*

Following 10 days of negotiations between USW (Steelworkers) Local 1-405 and the City of Kimberley over the last four months, talks have broken off between the unionized workforce and the City of Kimberley.

Bargaining broke off due to the employer's insistence that the unionized workforce accept concessions as part of any negotiated settlement.

"It's extremely disappointing," said Jeff Bromley, lead negotiator for the Steelworkers. "The employer came to the table with a concessionary bargaining stance from the very beginning and thus far we have been unable to completely persuade them to change that stance."

"Our members, the unionized workforce of the City of Kimberley, are not interested in losing negotiated **vacation provisions**, nor are they interested in any provisions that threaten the **wage parity provisions, fair and equitable training** and a **job evaluation program** that's been in place for over a decade," continued Bromley.

"The USW Bargaining Committee is left with no choice but to seek a mandate in the form of a Strike Vote from the unionized workforce. We will be beginning that process over the next week."

In the meantime, the employer has indicated that they are going to apply to the Labour Relations Board to involve the assistance of a provincial mediator to try and come to an agreement. It's expected that dates for that process will be agreed-to over the next week.

“We remain ready to return to the table but any agreement cannot include concessions. We understand and respect that the taxpayers of Kimberley are who we serve but the employer is hell-bent on extracting savings off the backs of our hard-working members and that isn't acceptable.”

The USW Bargaining Committee is in the process of issuing meeting notices to the membership to take a Strike Vote. Notices will be going up later today.

Updates will be provided to the membership as they become available.

Your USW Bargaining Committee at the bargaining table: Grant Farquhar, Alison Lafortune, Ilo Van Gilder, Dave (Red) Oscarson, Duane Hunt and Jeff Bromley – USW 1-405 Negotiator.

**WHAT - STRIKE VOTE – Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

**WHERE – CENTENNIAL HALL; make arrangements if away prior to meeting**

**WHEN – 5:45-7PM**