

TFEU President's Monthly Report, August 2011

Hi Everyone,

This has been a very busy month with lots of mediation, adhoc meetings and resolution of several issues.

Stewards Training

This has been tentatively set for Sept 28th and 29th – 2 half days. There will be some spots for members at large.

The new Stewards handbook is ready and we will have a couple of extra copies available for loan.

Bargaining

We will be retaining Jean Rands for the next few months to support the Bargaining Team as they start up with research and consultation.

Surrey, Vancouver and Coquitlam TFEU branches

Jean and I will be meeting with our 3 branch groups to assist them with their Collective Agreements and other needs over the next few weeks.

Less than Minimum and Postings

I have made some headway on this contentious issue. Some meetings with HR have been dedicated to expanding the rationale of hiring internally wherever possible and understanding the value of BCTF experience. We will continue to make this a priority.

Mediation vs. Grievance

Christine Choinski and I have been very successful at mediating and negotiating solutions. So far we have avoided creating barriers or antagonism by being willing to listen and at the same time firmly adhering to the Collective Agreement.

Honouring Jack Layton

Regardless of one's political leaning it is clear that Jack Layton had a huge impact on respect, honesty and support for working people. To honour him I would like suggest that we have an open discussion forum to set direction for TFEU, identify issues and priorities and at the same time raise donations of non-perishable food for the Vancouver Food Bank. I would welcome your input on this – topics, suggestions and format.

Contracting Out

Christine and I have also made some significant progress on this contentious issue Several members have asked us to take a firm stand on Contracting Out and to ensure that Article 6 is fully adhered to. We have received that promise from Management and will continue to work towards a better consultative process and hopefully less external contracts where our own members are capable of doing the work. Stay tuned for more feedback.

Thank You, Peter