



GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' UNION

June 26, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The purpose of this communication is to update the GVRDEU Membership on the status of bargaining, the Union's recent application for 'essential service designation' and any next steps including potential job action.

As you know, we have been without a renewed collective agreement the past 18 months. We have met with the Employer during this time, a total of 24 times with very limited progress being made. We started with a list of contract improvements that the Membership had identified to us as being a priority. In response to our proposal, the Employer presented the Union with a litany of significant concessions that they are demanding the Union accept.

Your GVRDEU bargaining committee remains steadfast in not accepting these concessions. We believe that the current labour environment (which has seen MV struggling to both hire and retain personnel) is not one in which the Membership should consider concessions. The Union has zero interest in accepting an agreement that would take money out of the pockets of the membership, or negatively impact their existing work-life balance.

The recent e-mail from the CAO of Metro Vancouver (June 21) outlining the Teamster settlement listed the wage adjustments and some minor increases in benefits, however said e-mail failed to mention the full scope of the agreement which saw the Teamster's collective agreement weakened.

As the negotiations had largely stalled after a late April meeting with the employer (and with very limited progress being made since then), the Union began taking the next required steps should bargaining completely break down. As such, the Union made an application with the Labour Relations Board to establish minimum staffing levels should job action be required. This step is a requirement under law and does not necessarily mean a strike vote will be taken. If however, the Union leadership felt a strike vote was warranted, there would be a special meeting with the Membership to review any such action. Please keep in mind that a successful strike vote would allow for the Union to begin formal job action.

We appreciate for your continued support in this process and assure the membership that we are bargaining with the Membership's best interests in mind.

In Solidarity,

Your GVRDEU Bargaining Committee