



GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' UNION

September 30th, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Union would like to comment on Metro Vancouver CAO **Jerry Dobrovlny's** September 22, 2023, bargaining update email issued to all GVRD staff, Chair George Harvie, Co-Chair John McEwen, and Teamsters 31. Specifically, the Union is responding to:

❖ ***"it remains our intention to provide staff with a fair and reasonable agreement"***.

What the Employer has proposed does not reflect what has been offered regionally. Additional municipal agreements within the region are in the process of ratification and will be publicly available soon.

❖ ***"The Employer is prepared to meet with the Union to continue bargaining"***.

The Employer has been stalling the process and since the Union's last proposal, made on September 13th, have not offered anything other than a response the following day stating, *"they have nowhere else to move, very little wiggle room left, and for the Union to pare down again"*.

The Union chose to use its time wisely and requested the mediator to report out from the dispute so we could focus on completing the essential services designation process. The Union has and will continue to maintain its position that it is willing to rejoin the Employer at the bargaining table at any time provided they are prepared to present a written proposal for settlement.

❖ ***"We have also further adjusted or fully removed many of our proposals in the interest in reaching an agreement with the GVRDEU."***

Many of the issues dropped off their last proposal were extra requests to deteriorate our working conditions. We acknowledge this is an encouraging step on the Employer's part, however significant hurdles remain.

The concessions that Metro Vancouver continue to seek are entitlements under the Collective Agreement which have been hard fought and paid for by the membership for a very long time. The Union will not concede these protections for its current and future members.

Rest assured, we have the memberships' best interest in mind and are confident we will reach the fair and equitable deal we all deserve.

In Solidarity,

Your GVRDEU Bargaining Committee