



Bargaining report from Ontario

As you probably know the Ontario & Quebec local leaders met this Monday to discuss the future of Bell's first offer. The caucus elected to send the offer back to the members with a unanimous recommendation that we all reject this insult and tell Bell to get back to the table and start bargaining in good faith.

A timetable for ratification meetings is being scheduled and your local executive will inform you of the date.

It appears Pat Pichette from Bell has appointed himself the spin doctor for Bell. Let's look at some of his statements.

1- **“The collective is 30 years old”:**

The present collective is 5 years old, it was updated in 2004 by Bell and the C.E.P. and has been updated regularly since 1975.

2- **“We are maintaining job security”**

Yes they left article 11 alone because they knew we would leave the table if they attacked it. If Pat is sincere about Job security other than his own, Bell would have addressed our recommendation that we establish an employee floor. [an employee floor is a number of C.E.P. employees Bell commits to employing i.e. 4800] Bell refused to discuss this.

3- **“Wage increases that have positive impacts on techs approaching retirement”**

Did Pat forget to mention the impacts on losing premiums, overtime, share revenue, post retirement benefits, C.O.L.A and the P.A.P.P?

These add up to a lot more than the paltry \$320 signing bonus and wage increases.

4-“Provide greater flexibility in terms of employee mobility and make it easier to provide 7/24 service”

Yes, Pat simply wants to trash seniority and send whomever they want where ever they want, while we work split shifts with no premiums.

5-“The C.E.P. bargaining team was not interested on working on any core issues”.

I guess the fact we produced 5 different proposals to continue the talks which were all rebuffed with no counter proposals substantiate this creditability challenged statement.

Bargaining has been tremendously frustrating as we are dealing with a company that refuses to acknowledge the fact that we are the gang that brought them to the party. Despite incompetent management we have kept this company above water.

If they showed some fiscal responsibility in their compensation packages to the people who are wrecking this company and dealt with us in an honest forum we believe we could come to an acceptable settlement.

At this time we have been presented with a first offer that includes over 50 concessions. [These concessions are posted on the local 25 website.]

We strongly encourage you to stand up to these bullies and reject this offer with prejudice.

We look forward to discussing this issue at your local ratification meetings.

In Solidarity,

Mike Douse, Mike Smith & Kevin Richmond

C.E.P. Ontario Bargaining committee