

Saskatchewan Government And General Employees' Union **COMMUNICATION**

Saskatchewan Tourism Authority Bargaining Unit

December 2006

The Bargaining Committee has developed an action plan for the next year. We would like to outline our planned activities and invite your comments and feedback.

Meetings with the employer

In January, the Bargaining Committee will meet with employer representatives to correct typing errors and omissions in our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that came to light earlier this year. You may recall that some sentences were incomplete, some steps in the salaries schedule were missed, and some wording changes were missed. This meeting is scheduled for January 24 (and 25 if necessary).

At that time, the Bargaining Committee and employer representatives will also write an 'interpretation' document, containing the rationale behind some of the articles in our CBA. We want future negotiators to be aware of the reasons we negotiated certain articles and both parties want to make sure a record exists which explains their origin and significance. Good examples are Article 7.08 (sometimes referred to as the "Dave Stewardson Clause") and Article 2.01 (which contains clauses that pre-date the expansion of the Tourism Authority in 1996).

Elections

In February, we will hold our election for a new Bargaining Committee. Our Bargaining Guidelines require that an election for a Bargaining Committee be held a minimum of six months prior to the expiration of the CBA. A February election will be more than seven months in advance of the expiration date.

In May, we will hold steward elections for two positions. The Bargaining Guidelines explain the zones and districts and some of the steward responsibilities. Additional information is contained in the Steward Manual provided by SGEU. For more information, please contact a steward or member of the Bargaining Committee.

Proposals package

In June, the new Bargaining Committee will start the work of developing a proposals package, which forms the basis for bargaining with the employer. The membership will be asked to submit ideas or "proposals" for possible changes they would like to see

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made in the CBA. Usually the bargaining committee completes the package before the end of summer. The proposals are reviewed and approved at our Proposals Conference which is usually held in September. In the past, our stewards have participated in the work of preparing the proposals package.

We expect to exchange proposals packages with the employer in the fall and hope to begin a new round of bargaining in October. However, these plans are not definite, given that the employer may or may not be ready to proceed at that time.

Membership meetings

We've had a suggestion from members that we hold a membership meeting in the near future. We are certainly receptive to the idea and would like to canvas the membership to assess interest. If you are interested in attending a meeting in Regina or Saskatoon, please let your steward know and provide a list of items you would like discussed. The list could become the agenda for the meeting(s). We can schedule several meetings depending on interest. Please let your steward know **by January 12th** if you are interested in attending a membership meeting, the items you would like to have discussed and some suggested dates for meetings. Because of travel schedules, it may be a good idea to suggest several meeting dates to accommodate speakers if necessary. For example, if members want representatives from SGEU to attend, we will need to co-ordinate their schedules with ours. **Remember, please submit agenda items and suggested meetings dates to your steward by January 12, 2007.**

In closing, we would like to thank the membership for your support over the past year. We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

Saskatchewan Tourism Authority Bargaining Committee
Ian McGlip, Chairperson
Joe Chad
Lynne Kennedy