

BC INTERIOR

USW WOOD COUNCIL 2009

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STEELWORKERS RATIFY CANFOR AGREEMENT

The BC Interior Bargaining Committee is pleased to announce that United Steelworkers members employed by Canfor in the BC Northern and Southern Interior regions have ratified a four-year collective agreement retroactive to June 30, 2009. Members in USW Locals 1-424, 1-417 and 1-405 voted in majority favour of the agreement that was reached on February 20, 2010.

The agreement provides union members with an unprecedented extension of seniority retention and improved severance in the event of a partial or permanent plant closure. It provides wage increases of 2 percent in years 3 and 4, protects the members' Long Term Disability Plan, and includes strong health and safety language. Improved life insurance and medical travel coverage are also part of the settlement as well as assistance for apprentices. The agreement also includes an innovative employee investment model linked to a direct payback schedule and potential profit sharing.

The BC Interior Bargaining Committee will utilize the Canfor agreement as the pattern agreement for negotiations with West Fraser and employer associations CONIFER and the IFLRA which represent employers in the northern and southern interiors, respectively.

The BC Bargaining Committee is currently meeting with the IFLRA in Kelowna.

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