



## Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

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Local Union 298

### To Local 298 members:

January 22, 2010

CEP's focus and most important priority are looking after our member's future.

I believe that has taken place, and the Transition Coordinator (Carole Gagnon) will be in place for six months.

The wages will be paid by west Fraser till March 31, and the government six months after that date.

The Local will continue to function within the CEP as long as it has a functioning Executive. **ON A VOLUNTEER BASES, NOT DRAWING ANY TYPE OF WAGES.** Regarding local 298 not being members of CEP. "Because" we are not paying per per capita?, does not mean we are not CEP members. We didn't pay per capita when we were on strike and some examples for you:

Prince Albert did not pay per capita for three years yet still exists.

Local 514 membership remained operating until they were able to get an investor to buy the mill in Port Alice and has been operating for several years now. These locals were never disbanded the local nor put into trust. Mackenzie, after two years have a buyer and will be entering into negotiations. At this point it is hard to say what the future may hold but it is important that we remain a solid group and look out for everyone's interest just as was done by all members in previous years.

The executive meets monthly to deal with issues and bring forward the agenda (concerns from the membership) for the monthly membership meetings. There is an avenue also at the membership meeting to bring forward discussions/motions under new business, and new motions if they feel that their executive members have not brought them forward or discussed them efficiently.

Since November during Executive Meetings and Membership Meetings, brief discussion regarding the operation of local 298 after February 17, has taken place. Several motions came forward and were passed at the membership meetings.

1. That the office secretary remains till February 28, 2010
2. The retiree grievances proceed to Arbitration.
3. That CEP 298 sponsor a social for their members on February 27, 2010

"The intent was to have a social jointly with 1127". The membership will be requested to revisit this expense. Local 1127 are not interested in participating in this social.

Discussions at Executive Meetings:

CEP'298's building value, assets and future prospects.

Revenue from the CEP building, and projected costs to maintain, (insurance, heat, power, phone, computer).

Leave the building in operation for approx 1 year and some suggestions when funds are no longer available.

Local 514 sent both locals a check, and I anticipate other locals will do the same. These funds will be utilized to maintain the interests of the local and for this type of hardship.



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Regarding projected expenses: Put into place, Pension Bridging Account till 2013, (Pat Howes retirement) a trustee appointed.

Grievances: projected grievances which may go to arbitration

Laura Prinz three day suspension grievance

Grievances arising from the Adjustment Committee Meetings regarding “CLOSURE OF EUROCAN”

This may go to arbitration:

e.g.: Contracting out work during and after closure

Hrs of work till closure

Health and Welfare Benefits, RE: Ken Rothney: accumulative years of service

Production Incentive, Eligibility, “capped”

First 3.5 price trigger hits

**DEFENSE FUND;** As the executive is aware and discussions around this issue take place, at each and every membership meeting. The defense fund is for establishing the pattern. This has yet to be accomplished. Members need to make sure there is updated contact information at the union office.

**Withdrawal Cards:** withdrawal cards will be available for members in good standing at the union hall.

**Championed ideas from the membership:**

Having a weekly social with a monthly pot luck dinner, to promote solidarity, networking and support for our members.

### **FEASABILITY STUDY:**

Poyry started the feasibility study January 12, 2010, and have completed two weeks, with daily briefings.

Poyry had informal preliminary reports to the steering committee on January 15 and 21<sup>st</sup>. These Briefings brought no surprise to both Adrian and me, regarding mill issues e.g.: precipitators, turbo generator, landfill, cascade evaporators...which requires capital. It is also not news to us that low cost fiber supply will also be a huge concern. The fiber is being redirected to the interior and projected; the coastal fiber supply will also be directed to the interior within the next several years, to address the fiber shortage. Chip supply is 40% of our operating costs.



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After meeting with the Six Consultants from Poyry and knowing the level of their expertise in each field. We are optimistic that they will have some type of option for us, reviewing what can be done with the least amount of capital. Also meeting with a government official, we were made aware of additional funds which would be available from the government in the success of Employee Buy Out, or prospective purchaser. Funds for training of employees, \$10,000.00 for each employee, funds for consultants to help with start up. Funds available for start up.

During these meetings, discussions around loss of available knowledge and expertise resulting from employees moving on and forced retirement are an issue. The Executive have contact with members who would be willing to return if Eurocan was purchased, and retired members would be available for start up of the mill. Along with consultant's knowledge and funds from the government, I am optimistic or maybe just a dreamer!!!

### **Second Stage of Employee Buy Out Proposal:**

There is an educational component to the Employee Buy Out Proposal, and as the community is involved, a community meeting is being proposed, to take place while the feasibility study is being conducted. To share information on the employee buyout process, to clarify what a co-operative structure entails for the employees and the community. To examine possible co-op options for how a buyout, if it proceeds, might be structured, and to share information on how the broader community can support and be involved in the employee buyout. The members need to have clear information in order to make an informed decision.

Executive members are available daily to discuss any of these issues.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns please contact me. 250-632-1352

Fraternally,  
Mary Murphy  
President CEP local 298