

# Railfax

January 19, 2010



[www.caw.ca](http://www.caw.ca)

## VIA - PENSION

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

VIA Rail has released a notice to all employees, concerning an adjustment to the administration of VIA's pension plans. This announced change affects unionized and non-unionized employees who chose to leave VIA before the age of 55 with 20 years of service or more. The union was not notified in advance of these changes. We were sent a copy of the notification (Message to Employees) this morning. You may recall CN Rail similarly changed its pension administration rules in late 2008 and early 2009.

The CAW put VIA on notice, that we will challenge this decision unless proper protections are put in place for our members at VIA. Pension matters as always are complicated and challenging. VIA's correspondence states that this change was necessary due to a significant negative impact on the health of the pension fund. In addition, VIA senior management has indicated that the current practice places significant financial liability on the pension plan. We have registered our concerns in the strongest terms possible to VIA senior management and are awaiting a response back from them concerning our objections and inquiries. Policy changes are at times negative to our members; we fully intend to ensure that that does not happen.

## VIA NEGOTIATIONS

As everyone is aware there has been change at the CEO level at VIA, Mr. Marc Laliberté is now in place and the CAW is awaiting a meeting with the new head officer of VIA. We continue to pressure VIA about returning to the bargaining table and we are still awaiting a response back from them on new dates. As we committed we will continue to update our members as we go through this process. We have not as of yet applied for conciliation as we are waiting to see if we can reach a fair and equitable agreement without having to initiate the legal requirements as outlined under the Canadian Labour Relations Board (CLRB). We will keep our members updated when we have confirmed dates for negotiations.

In Solidarity,  
VIA Master Bargaining Committee  
CAW Local 100  
CAW Council 4000

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