

Railfax

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VIA Bargaining Update

As we previously reported, the union continued its negotiations with VIA Rail in Montreal, the week of March 1st through March 5th.

The Bargaining Committees were optimistic that we would be able to finalize discussions on work rules. Although Local 100, Agreement 3 continued to have meaningful discussions, the employer unfortunately, did not respect the important demands that were tabled on behalf of the workers in Agreements 1 and 2. The Council 4000 Bargaining Committee were frustrated and angry about the lack of commitment by VIA to the union's proposals. Despite this attitude from the employer, the bargaining committees continue the discussions.

On March 4th 2010 the bargaining became more challenging, as the corporation continued their concessionary demands and in essence, ignored the proposals in Agreements 1 and 2.

Although other dates for negotiations are being contemplated, the Union is considering its options at this time and will file for federal conciliation as early as this week.

As we said in our earlier Railfaxes this round of negotiations will be challenging and are becoming even more complex as we move through the process. Whether or not, the recent federal budget had anything to do with the attitude of the employer remains to be seen. The bargaining committees remain committed to reach a fair and equitable settlement on behalf of its 2,500 members at VIA Rail.

We will continue to provide updates as the information becomes available but once again, it is critical that our members support their committees.

In Solidarity,

VIA Master Bargaining Committee
CAW Local 100
CAW Council 4000

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