



NEGOTIATE 2008! BARGAINING UPDATE

March 7, 2008

The Table Committee met for a series of meetings over five days (March 3 to 7), exchanging proposals, and entering into discussion on the issues which the members have proposed. All proposals that were collected from members have been considered and included in some form or fashion.

The employer presented a concessionary position broken into three sub-categories entitled: Additional Exclusions, Increased Flexibility and Competitive Wage Rates.

Much of the company's discussions focused on Wal-Mart as their major competitor, which was in direct contradiction to a statement issued by Galen Weston Junior and printed in the Toronto Star recently stating "Loblaw doesn't consider itself a direct competitor to Wal-Mart." The company, as we anticipated, commented that he was merely "misquoted". As a result of the overall tone set by the company, the union is unsure of whether they are bargaining with Loblaws or Wal-Mart.

In spite of this, the parties were able to engage into discussions which produced agreement on a number of small issues; it is positive that progress has been made.

The March 18 to 20 negotiation dates have been cancelled due to the Easter long weekend. However, bargaining will resume on the following dates: March 31 to April 2, April 8 to 11, April 22 to 25, and May 5 to 8, 2008.

Please do not hesitate to contact the union with any questions you may have.

Please Note: If you wish to receive these updates by email, please forward your email information to ufcw@ufcw1400.ca

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