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Unifor Local 100 Ratify Tentative Agreement with Hudson Bay Railway!

The Pas, Manitoba, Unifor Local 100 members ratified the tentative agreement reached with the Hudson Bay Railway (HBR) on July 29, 2020.

Unifor represents approximately 18 members working at HBR in The Pas, Manitoba, who provide mechanical services to both freight cars and locomotives. Our members had been without a contract since December 2016. The future of the Railway in the North was unpredictable making negotiations all but impossible. On August 31, 2018, Arctic Gateway Group Limited Partnership and OmniTRAX Inc. signed a Share Purchase Agreement to take over ownership of the Hudson Bay Rail Company, the Hudson Bay Port Company and the Churchill Marine Tank Farm. This allowed Local 100 to get back to the bargaining table and secure an agreement for our members.

“This was an extremely difficult round of negotiations given the recent uncertainty regarding the future of the Railway in Northern Manitoba coupled with the current pandemic, which has put additional pressure on the economy.

Unifor was able to sit down and negotiate a collective agreement with the major stakeholders despite the unique economic constraints facing HBR. We came together to understand each other’s positions and were able to bargain a deal that met each other’s needs and one that will help ensure HBR’s economic viability and provide stable employment for our members.

Although it was difficult to obtain the significant annual wage increases, we have seen in the past, we were successful in obtaining wage increases including a \$450 signing bonus. We were able to make gains to our layoff language, bereavement leave language, increases in use of personal automobile mileage allowances, significant increases to work boot allowances and have expanded the monthly domicile allowance to include Churchill, Manitoba. These increases put money back into our member’s pockets,” said Zoltan Czippel, President of Unifor Local 100.

In closing, the Unifor Local 100 bargaining committee would like to thank all of its members for their patience and support through this challenging and tough round of negotiations.

In solidarity,

Local 100 Lodge 51 Bargaining Committee:

Terry McKimm – President Local 100 (retired)
Cory Will – Prairie Region Vice President Local 100
Steven Webb – Bargaining Representative Local 100

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