



The Canadian Merchant Service Guild

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS - MATES - PILOTS - ENGINEERS AND OTHER MARINE OFFICERS

INCORPORATED 1919

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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION - INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION - NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL OF CANADA

CMSG Western Branch – Coquitlam, B.C.

Seaspan Impasse - Item 5 - Update from the Guild

May 27, 2014

Attn: CMSG Members employed at Seaspan ULC

Yesterday, an information meeting was held with Members employed at Seaspan to provide an update and to engage in a direct dialogue with a number of Officers who were available. Collective bargaining with this employer is approaching an impasse. All information that was known at the time was provided to the Members present and the Guild commenced preparing a communication package to provide to all affected Members to ensure that those who could not attend the meeting were kept informed of the situation.

Several hours after the meeting ended, a significant development occurred when the employer informed the Guild by e-mail that they intend to unilaterally impose new terms and conditions of employment covering a period ending in the year 2020. The company intends to disregard the Guild's demands that are being made on behalf of the Officers employed at Seaspan, and instead intends to just go ahead and "implement" the changes that the company was not successful in obtaining in collective bargaining. Since this notice from the company contains a number of different "effective dates", the Guild has made a decision to post this letter on our website under the title "Seaspan Impasse - Item # 3 - Letter from Company" <http://www.cmsg-gmmc.ca/newsroom/>

The outline of the changes the company intends to impose is posted as Item # 4

The Guild's legal counsel is still examining the situation but has already indicated that there exists a likelihood that such a move by the company runs counter to the provisions of the collective agreement, even though it is expired; so the Guild will be pursuing all available recourse.

This latest step by the company is extremely provocative and undermines everything that the Officers employed at Seaspac and the Guild negotiating committee have been attempting to move forward with in a professional manner. The Guild recognizes the seriousness of the situation and steps are being taken now to consult with members of the negotiating committee regarding this latest salvo from the company. Officers at Seaspac will be kept informed of all developments as we move ahead. In the meantime, the Guild once again encourages all Members to continue to perform their duties in accordance with the provisions of the Canada Labour Code, as they have been doing.

Yours truly,

Capt. Mike Armstrong

Western Branch President
