



FOUNDED 1917

Canadian Merchant Service Guild

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

MASTERS — MATES — PILOTS — ENGINEERS AND OTHER MARINE OFFICERS

La Guilde de la Marine Marchande du Canada

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES CAPITAINES — OFFICIERS BREVETES ET PILOTES

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

1150 Morrison Drive, Suite 150, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 8S9

February 24, 2012

Bulletin for GSO Members at Coast Guard and DND

In our newsletter distributed at the end of December we provided an update on the ongoing contract negotiations with the federal treasury board. The Guild had requested the assistance of a mediator to try to aid the parties in making some progress. The Labour Relations Board appointed a mediator who brought the 2 negotiating committees together in Ottawa commencing on February 7th, 2012. The employer's position did not change significantly during the mediation process. The employer is still not willing to consider our Members' demands to adjust wages and allowances by at least the cost-of-living while addressing inequities with the unlicensed group including establishing a lay-day factor. The employer offered wage increases that are lower than inflation while at the same time proposing to eliminate severance pay in line with other bargaining groups. With no expectation of making acceptable progress, the mediation concluded unsuccessfully on February 9th.

As virtually the entire GSO group would be designated as ineligible to go on strike, legislation requires that binding arbitration be used as the mechanism to resolve this impasse in collective bargaining. The GSO representatives and negotiating committee from across the country met on February 21st, to determine which of the original proposals submitted by Guild members would be advanced to arbitration. That final package of demands as well as the list of items submitted by the employer to the arbitration board will be posted on the Guild website **after** the final packages from both sides have been exchanged.

The Guild will continue to keep you posted once there are further developments.

Tom Spindler
Chairman
GSO Negotiating Committee