



Collective Bargaining Update for Government Ships' Officers (GSO's) March, 2017

- The most recent round of GSO contract negotiations took place Nov 22nd to 24th, 2016
- Of the 27 bargaining units negotiating with the federal Treasury Board, 12 have reached “tentative” agreements so far. Like numerous other unions, the Guild is still engaged in bargaining.
- The tentative agreements that have been reached, still need to be approved by union members. In most cases, those voting results will not be known until the end of March.
- While the Guild’s GSO Negotiations have been underway for some time, no progress has been made on monetary issues.
- Previous bulletins posted on the Guild website have explained in detail the legislative reasons for the frustrating lack of progress during this round of bargaining.
- A bulletin has also been posted explaining that only as of late last year was the Guild able to secure an arrangement that if an impasse is reached in these negotiations, the matter will now be resolved by the use of binding arbitration.
- Prior to this arrangement the Guild was on the “strike” route, even though outrageous legislation had been passed which enabled the employer to designate 96% of the bargaining unit as not eligible to participate in a strike for the duration of this round of bargaining. Clearly that prevented the Guild from having any access to an effective dispute resolution mechanism until late last year when the arbitration option was restored.
- The Guild is fully committed to securing an improved collective agreement. Bulletins updating GSO’s on negotiations will continue to be posted on the Guild website whenever there are developments to report.
- The Guild negotiating committee members from across Canada will be arriving in Ottawa again during the **first week of April** for another bargaining session with the federal Treasury Board.