

GSO Negotiations – Update #4

Collective Bargaining for Federal Government Ships' Officers (GSO's)

March 2022

Immediately after an impasse was reached in collective bargaining for GSO's last fall, the Guild requested that a mediator be appointed as required by the Public Service Labour Relations Act.

At the earliest opportunity, the Guild Bargaining Committee comprised of elected Ships' Officers and Guild staff, met with the Mediator and the Treasury Board of Canada for a round of contract mediation sessions which took place in Halifax on March 1st to 3rd, 2022.

Despite the Guild committee's best efforts to try to engage the employer to address the Guild's bargaining proposals, the Treasury Board-side had little appetite for the proposals that matter most to our members.

As a result, the Guild negotiating team advised the Mediator that we would be filing an application for the appointment of an arbitrator to resolve the matter as required by the Public Service Labour Relations Act. Once an arbitrator has been appointed, the employer-side and the Guild's bargaining committee will both be required to submit to the arbitrator the demands that need to be considered, as well as carefully-prepared rationale and convincing factual information to support the position being taken.

Despite every effort to negotiate an improved collective agreement, this is not the first time that an impasse in GSO bargaining has progressed to the binding arbitration stage. Although the length of time to get to this point is always frustrating, all the steps along the way are required and mandatory, and the Guild's Bargaining Committee has ensured each step was taken as efficiently and promptly as possible.

The Guild will continue to keep members informed of developments. Please feel free to contact your nearest Guild office with any inquiries.