



2016 Auto Talks

#AUTOTALKS16



Sisters and Brothers

I thought this would be a good time to update the membership on the logistics of the collective bargaining process as we draw closer to opening talks.

As stated in previous messages your local bargaining team opened talks in late June with some preliminary discussions. Most of the first week we met with the company, we were exchanging amendments and clarification of all articles. We met again with the company on a local level during the week of July 25th 2016. Our goal was to make headway with the company on several key local issues before we entered into master bargaining.

On August 8th 2016 we moved our sites onto the master agreement. Your Bargaining Committee is in Toronto for several weeks of talks leading up to the selection of the target company. President Jerry Dias usually waits until the Labor Day [Weekend](#) in September to officially announce who the target company will be. We as a bargaining team have been lobbying quite extensively to choose Ford Motor Company as the target. We feel it more beneficial to be the leader in bargaining rather than follow the other companies. When the target company is picked all efforts will be made to come to an agreement prior to the strike deadline. [If no agreement is reached Brother Dias has said we will not negotiate after the strike deadline which means if Ford is the target company we](#) the members of Local 707, Local 200, Local 584, Local 1324 and Local 240 will be in a legal strike position and we [will exercise our right](#).

This is a time when we must stand united and send a clear message to Ford Motor Company that we mean business and we will not settle for anything other than a fair and equitable collective agreement. [Every local in the Ford chain has demands that need to be met](#). For the past 10 years we have taken the necessary steps to strengthen Ford's profitability back to what it once was. It's time Ford takes care of the membership that made this happen. We have some difficult challenges in front of us but we believe with the strength of the membership behind us we will be successful.

On August 28th 2016 we will hold a strike vote at the Local Union Hall. I think there is some misperception that this vote means if we vote to strike that we will be on strike. This is not the case. This is a mandate which means should we not be able to come to terms with the company on a collective agreement that you the membership have given your leadership the approval to pull its members and strike against the company. The best way to send a strong mandate message to the company would be for 100% turnout from all Locals with 100% voting in favour to strike if a deal can't be reached. Simple as that! We will have regular updates for the membership on how talks are progressing followed by the mandate vote on the 28th.

As I have stated in so many other posts please download the phone app or bookmark the website as these will be extremely useful tools in getting information out to the membership immediately.

I realize this is a very stressful time for everybody but I implore everyone this is not a time for division this is a time to stand together. [Have faith in your local and national bargaining teams](#). If we stand united and in solidarity we will reach a collective agreement that will be great for all members.

In Solidarity,
Dave Thomas
President