

## LE LIEN DIRECT

*Pour plus d'informations, contactez :*

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1 février 2022



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February 1, 2022

### TO ALL USW CHAPLAINS EMPLOYED AT BRIDGES OF CANADA:

USW Chaplains Bargaining Bulletin #1 - Bargaining Survey

Hello Chaplains,

As you may know, our first collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with our employer, Bridges of Canada, will expire on March 31, 2022. This means that we will begin negotiations soon for a renewal collective agreement. This is the first of many updates about that process and about related issues that arise during the bargaining process.

#### 1) Chaplains Bargaining Survey - Please complete as soon as possible

The Bargaining Survey was sent out by text message on January 26, 2022. You may also access the survey at this link:

[1976usw.ca/chaplains-bargaining-survey](https://1976usw.ca/chaplains-bargaining-survey)



It is very important that we have your input as we enter into negotiations for a renewal collective bargaining agreement. Please complete the survey and tell us about your priorities and workplace concerns so that we may try to address them at the bargaining table with the Company.

#### 2) Chaplains General Members' Meetings

We are organizing the first general chaplains' meetings of 2022 via Zoom on Thursday, February 17, 2022. We will use these meetings to discuss the survey results and to gain further input from you for collective bargaining. We will also discuss the bargaining process and what to expect over the coming months. We will hold two meetings to accommodate chaplains in the East and the West regions. The meeting times are as follows please mark them in your calendar.

- a) Chaplains Members Meeting - Eastern Call (with French translation)  
Thursday February 17, 2022 at 6:00pm EST (7:00pm AST; 3:00pm PST)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86390549898?pwd=dWorQ0hjK0xHS20vaUhdUx2aUxwZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 863 9054 9898**

**Passcode: 723948**

**Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcxlD6Yc3B>**

b) Chaplains Members Meeting - Western Call

Thursday February 17, 2022 at 9:00pm EST (10:00pm AST; 6:00pm PST)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://usw-ca.zoom.us/j/81202484573?pwd=ZTBldzJRSIJ1aGJkbWRDcm4zQlJYUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 812 0248 4573**

**Passcode: 245426**

**Find your local number: <https://usw-ca.zoom.us/j/k8f6i1uKs>**

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

3) COVID-19 and Reductions in Work for Chaplains

Although we understand the importance of safety of inmates and workers during this difficult time, we were disappointed to see that Bridges and the CSC chose to force a layoff of chaplains to address the rising cases of COVID in our workplaces. CSC made the decision to cut hours, rather than allow chaplains to continue working on an on-call basis remotely as the federal government has done with other public servants. This layoff, again, indicates the importance of better job security language in our collective agreement and will be a priority at the bargaining table.

The Company was supposed to have issued Records of Employment within five (5) days of the interruption of work. If you still have not received your Record of Employment or are experiencing complications in applying for employment insurance, please contact us immediately so that we may help you to resolve it.

Please also advise us if you experience shift cancellations or scheduling reductions on short notice so that we may examine if such reductions are in violation of the Canada Labour Code or the collective agreement.

If you have any concerns or otherwise require assistance from the union you may contact your regional steward directly (see below) or [chaplains@usw.ca](mailto:chaplains@usw.ca).

In solidarity,

The USW Chaplains Bargaining Team:

Todd Brown (Unit Chair, Pacific Region)

Ed Hilchey (Steward, Prairie Region)

Desmond Khanoo (Steward, Ontario Region)

Sean Michael Gardner (Steward, Quebec Region)

Gordon Driedger (Steward, Atlantic Region)

*To subscribe to text message updates from Local 1976, text "**chaplain1976**" to 32323.*

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