

## LE LIEN DIRECT

*Pour plus d'informations, contactez :*

Nancy Lapointe

20 avril 2022



514-526-8280

1-866-925-5952

## DIRECT LINK

*For more information, please contact:*

nancy@1976usw.ca

www.1976usw.ca

April 20, 2022

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

#### Chaplains Bargaining Bulletin #2 - Negotiations temporarily on hold

We are writing to provide an update about collective bargaining.

As you know by now, the previous Standing Offer between Bridges and CSC was set to expire on March 31, 2022.

In February 2022, the federal government decided to extend the contract for only three (3) months, without any improvements to the financial terms (including the regular annual increases included in the previous Standing Offer).

This was not an ideal bargaining situation. In response to these developments and in response to the general lack of funding and attention devoted to the chaplaincy program by the CSC, our Union's National Director, Marty Warren, wrote to the Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino to request a meeting to discuss the future of the chaplaincy program and the issues facing chaplains.

Although we were not able to schedule a meeting with the Minister, our Union did meet with the Parliamentary Secretary, MP Pam Damoff. She was very receptive to our concerns and agreed (at least in principle) that the chaplaincy program was an integral part of the correctional system and that retaining and attracting qualified chaplains required fair wages and working conditions.

Since that meeting, we were surprised to see the federal government properly tender the Request for Standing Offer for the chaplaincy program. Bridges has informed us that they are putting a bid together and, as you know, they have asked chaplains to provide updated documentation as part of that process.

The Bargaining Team will be submitting our financial proposals to the Company in advance of the close of bidding on April 25. We are doing this to try to influence the outcome of the bidding process and to encourage CSC and Bridges to put more resources on the table.

Generally, meetings with the Company about a renewal collective agreement will likely remain on hold until there is some certainty about the future of the chaplaincy program and the resources allocated towards it by the CSC and federal government.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to reach out to stakeholders, your faith organizations and your peers to inform them about the state of the chaplaincy program. We hope that you will encourage them to write directly to CSC and the federal government to advocate for the chaplaincy program and our collective bargaining process. CSC continues to distance itself from chaplains, it is important that we remind them at every opportunity that, ultimately, the buck stops with them.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns and we will continue to keep you updated as things develop.

In solidarity,

The USW Chaplains Bargaining Team (Todd, Ed, Desmond, Sean and Gord)

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