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April 17, 2023

TO ALL USW CHAPLAINS EMPLOYED AT BRIDGES OF CANADA:

Bargaining Bulletin #9 - Collective Bargaining with Bridges of Canada

Dear Chaplains,

As we discussed at our National meetings on March 8, 2023, the chaplains' bargaining team is meeting with the company this week to continue negotiations for a renewal collective agreement. We hope to begin conversations about our monetary proposals starting April 17. We are committed to negotiating financial improvements for our members.

We want to emphasize to you that discussions with the Company have been productive, but we are still in for some tough negotiations. As we discussed at the meeting, the Company has tabled concessionary proposals on vacation, insured benefits, and notice of reduction of hours. The bargaining team will continue to press to achieve gains for our members, including tradition-specific chaplains, and will not accept that the Company's cost concerns can only be addressed by way of concessionary demands. We will provide another update following our meetings with the Company starting April 17.

Ultimately, you will have the final say on any agreement that is reached. We count on your continued support and engagement to ensure we can achieve the best deal possible at the bargaining table. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support!

Finally, we are aware that the PSAC bargaining units, mainly interventions, have taken a strike vote as part of their negotiations with the CSC. It is important to emphasize that a strike vote does not mean that a strike will be called. CSC has assured the Company that chaplains will be required to continue to provide services and that there will be no disruption in your work. We are awaiting a response from the Company about how you may navigate safely any picket lines and enter the workplace safely. If a strike does become imminent, we will provide more information about how you can both show your solidarity with our CSC colleagues and safely and thoughtfully continue to work during any labour disruption that may occur.

In solidarity,

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

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