

## LE LIEN DIRECT

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6 mars 2023



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March 6, 2023

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

#### Bargaining Bulletin #8 - Collective Bargaining with Bridges of Canada

Dear Chaplains,

We are pleased to provide you with an update regarding our negotiations with the Company for a new collective bargaining agreement.

In this bulletin we will provide an update on the following:

- 1) Bargaining discussions held with the Company January 31 to February 3
- 2) National USW Membership Meetings March 8, 2023

#### 1) Bargaining Update - Bargaining discussions held with the Company January 31 to February 3

During the week of January 31 to February 3 your Bargaining Team assembled in Montreal to meet with Bridges of Canada for our second bargaining meeting with the Company.

Discussions remain productive and we have made some progress on scheduling and protection of hours and employee-management relations. But many issues remain outstanding including health and safety, liability protections, wages, expenses for tradition-specific chaplains and all other financial items.

Our next meeting with the Company is scheduled for the week of April 17-21 when we hope to start digging into financial proposals.

Some of you have expressed concerns about the length of time it is taking to negotiate a renewal agreement. This bargaining unit is national in scope, and this is a relatively new bargaining relationship. Negotiations such as these can take time to schedule and the issues at stake can be complex and difficult to discuss. It is not unusual for this type of bargaining to take several bargaining sessions to reach a resolution.

If your concerns about timing are rooted in concerns about the timing of wage increases, please be assured that a longer period of negotiations does not necessarily imply a loss of leverage on our wage demands. Be assured that the Bargaining Team's proposals include demands that wage increases include a retroactive element.

Finally, we remind you that the members of the Bargaining Team are volunteers – they are not paid extra for their service and the demands of travel and preparation for bargaining is taxing. There is no interest in prolonging negotiations. We are doing our best to bring you the best agreement for ratification as soon as we possibly can.

Thank you for your continued support!

## 2) National USW Chaplain Membership Meetings March 8, 2023

We will be hosting two National Chaplains meetings (West and East) to discuss the state of negotiations and any other outstanding issues you wish to discuss. The information for the meetings is provided below. Chaplains may attend either the West or East meeting, but only the East meeting will provide translation.

### **Eastern Canada Chaplains Meeting (translation provided)**

March 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM ET (4:00 PM PT)

<https://usw-ca.zoom.us/j/83131058341?pwd=WEFIK0htbGJBdzdNVm1IVlJvdEJRUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 3105 8341

Passcode: 392810

### **Western Canada Chaplains Meeting (English; no translation)**

March 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM PT (9:30 PM ET)

<https://usw-ca.zoom.us/j/81021486756?pwd=U3dwOGZsRXBzcmNlZkxKWUFoS3k3dz09>

Meeting ID: 810 2148 6756

Passcode: 969637

In solidarity,

The USW Chaplains Bargaining Team

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