

To: Roger Bockstael

Re: Negotiations for RCSS/ Corporate Extra Foods/ Western Grocers

Dear Roger

As we approach the beginning of September, it marks almost a year since we have been at the bargaining table regarding the above noted negotiations. The Company position the last time we met was that they were unable to respond to the Unions monetary proposals until some of the issues surrounding the future of the Canadian Commercial Workers Pension Plan (CCWIPP) were resolved. As you are no doubt aware, the administrators of the Plan recently mailed out a notice to all members informing them of changes to the Plan effective September 1st.

During our period of inactivity it was also expressed to the Union by the Company that we might be better off waiting for the current negotiations taking place in Ontario between the Company and three UFCW local unions to be completed. While we were initially in agreement on this matter, we felt it was linked to the Pension issue and now that the Trustees of the Plan, including a representative from Loblaw Company Limited, and the provincial Regulators have agreed on new benefit scales we need to deal with a very pressing issue.

In recent settlements, the Company has agreed to participate in the Stabilization Plan in order to ensure employees benefits prior to any changes taking place. This includes deals for RCSS employees in every province west of Ontario as well as RCWC members in B.C. As we now have finality on this issue, we feel it necessary to remind the Company that if they do not agree to contribute to the Stabilization Fund for its BC employees, their benefit entitlement will be drastically cut. The Ontario UFCW members resolved this issue last bargaining and we need to return to the bargaining table now before your employees receive letters outlining these potential massive cuts.

This is not a new issue. We should not have to debate what is needed. I would urge you to contact me as soon as possible to arrange dates.

Yours Truly,



Dan Goodman
Director of Bargaining