

# MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Telephone Town Hall – May 30, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

---

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:02 pm by Suzanne Hodge.
2. **Roll Call of officers:**  
Suzanne Hodge, **President**; Dan Goodman, **Secretary-Treasurer**; Debbie Harvie **VP #4**; Mike Rose **VP #7**; David Mowatt **VP #8**; James Fraser **VP #9**, David Haere **VP #10**; Megan Elmhurst **VP #11**, Charles Pratt **VP #14**
3. **Adoption of Agenda**  
m / s / c to adopt the agenda
4. **Adoption of Feb. 28, 2017 Minutes** as posted on UFCW 247 website (May 15<sup>th</sup>)  
m / s / c to adopt the minutes
5. **Business Arising from Previous Membership Meeting**  
None
6. **President's Report**
  - Executive Board approves Kathleen Allen as VP #2
  - Nora Butz, Union Representative is retiring May 31; Executive Board approved a life membership for her
  - UFCW National Council is reviewing candidates for the leadership of the Federal NDP Party; a sub-committee of UFCW Canada Presidents was struck and I am participating. We interviewed all of the candidates in May and we'll reconvene soon to make a recommendation to the UFCW Canada National Council Executive Board.
  - Safeway/Sobeys secured a new CEO, Michael Meadline, previously from Canadian Tire. Sobeys board meeting is June 2 and we expect to hear from them afterwards as to which direction the Company plans to take regarding the stores themselves. The company is still in disarray 4 years after purchasing Safeway which will likely lead to them taking aggressive steps to get back on track. We are watching this very closely. The five year contract re-opener is March 2018, however either party may serve notice to begin bargaining as of Sept 30 2017. We are considering our options, and it will depend on what actions Sobeys decides to take in next few weeks/months. We'll be collecting proposals and conducting proposal conference with our members prior to start of bargaining.
  - CCWIPP – This plan is moving along well and is now two years into the ten year recovery plan. For the year ending Dec. 31, 2015, the plan generated a return of 5%, now assets have increased to \$2.5 Billion dollars as of Dec. 31, 2015. The Rate of return estimated for 2016 will be 7% to 7.4 %, to be finalized in the annual report. All plan amendments have now been certified by FSCO.
  - Stabilization Fund Update – FSCO has given approval that any employer who failed to pick an option regarding the use any negotiated stabilization funds, will find that FSCO will make that determination for them regarding those specific funds.  
The Trustees for UFCW Pension Plan (Safeway/Sobeys & other miscellaneous small units) are myself (Suzanne Hodge), Dan Goodman, Leif Hansen (former President of UFCW Local 2000),

and as of April 2016 Susan Philpott who is a pension lawyer & professional trustee from the law firm of Koskie Minsky in Toronto.

m / s / c to adopt the President's report as read

#### 7. **Secretary-Treasurer's Report & Financial Report**

- Terri Griffing who was Western Canada Labour Relations Director for Safeway/Sobeys, left after almost 35 years of service. She was a link to Safeway's history and there are fewer and fewer Safeway people still with Sobeys.
- We are suspending operation of our Kelowna Training Centre after the completion of the summer schedule. It is not financial feasible to continue. More & more members are accessing online courses through WebCampus. We are talking about other potential options for training outside Lower Mainland. We'll keep you updated.
- New Letter of understanding with BC Tree Fruit which saw a dramatic increase in wage scales for cold storage mechanics, apprentice journeyman's trade people, in order to make Company more competitive in the labour market. A few other changes were incorporated in this letter.
- Surrey Loblaw Warehouse – DC 1957, have had numerous employee relation committee meetings with Union Rep Eric Seto, Shop Stewards and Company officials to work through some issues regarding the transition from Versacold Third Party to Loblaw DC.
- UFCW Canada National Office Auditor was invited to the Local to review both the financial books and bookkeeping practices
- Executive Board adopted a motion to do a yearly review of the finances at the second quarter meeting.
- Financial statement was read by category

m / s / c to adopt the Secretary-Treasurer's report and Financial Report as read

#### 8. **Bargaining Report**

- Started bargaining with Versacold Corpak on May 9-10 and will meet again June 6 & 7
- Negotiated an adjustment plan agreement with SEPPS (Western Waffles) as plant is closing in December 2017.
- Waiting for dates from the owner/operator of Triwest Foods (IGA West Vancouver)
- Waiting for a response for bargaining dates from the owner of Kootenay Markets in Fernie
- YIG Abbotsford members will soon receive proposal forms as agreement expires August 21 of this year
- Vantage Foods lost bid to continue operating a meat processing plant in Chilliwack. Overwaitea owns the facility and equipment, bid was won by Donald's Fine Foods. Vantage will continue operating until Sept. 30, 2017. We've talked to our legal counsel and Donald's. We believe we can still represent members after the change occurs. Donald's has said their plan is to keep all existing employees and us as the Union.

#### 9. **Education & Training Report**

- Spring/Summer classes are starting this month in our Kelowna and New Westminster Training Centres
- Intro to Stewardship scheduled for May was canceled due to low attendance; along with the 3-day course on Island.
- 15 Shop Stewards & active members attended our new Trans-forming our Assumptions course on March 28

10. **New Business**

- No new business.
- 2 questions were taken from the members on the line and all questions were answered.

11. **Member Draw**

The draw was conducted electronically.  
Winner was: Peter Parmar, Superstore 1562.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm