

September 2010

BENEFITS – On August 17 and 19 the Union met with MVT to negotiate a collective benefit plan. As most are aware we are currently in 7 different plans and under the direction of Mediator Mark Brown we were to negotiate one plan this year.

We spent the first day listening to MVT's proposals. We could not agree with their lowball estimate and MVT would not accept the agreements we had while mediating with Mark Brown during mediation last year. We agreed to pursue arbitration to get a fair settlement for our members. We expect this issue to be resolved in late October/early November.

MPP – MVT has put the membership in the uneasy position of asking “what is going on with my pension again?”. The MVT's initial letter to dissolve the trust fund left all the liability on to YOU – unacceptable! Your Financial Secretary & Vice President identified numerous miscalculations that would have left the many members out of pocket. Your legal counsel drafted a proper MOU that left the responsibility with MVT.

Seems MVT maybe getting fined upwards of \$10,000.00 per month by the municipal pension plan for the mishandling of the situation – shame on them again.

Canada Revenue Agency has a complaint form for those MPP contributions, that were deducted in 2009, but not accounted for on your 2009 T4. These forms must be individually filled. To acquire a complaint form please call CRA - 1 800 663 9334.

GRIEVANCES – heading for arbitration, top 5 no particular order or relation to the Jackson five, but as simple as ABC for you and me !

1. 20% of the workforce to be off for vacation at any time.
2. Sick Leave Bank – 90 hours or 12 days to be credited on January 1 each year.
3. Office seniority violations – postings going to less senior staff.
4. Work on statutory holidays is to be offered by Depot seniority.
5. The ability to use all your vacation time in the first six months of the year.

Your executive recommends arbitration to resolve the above mentioned grievances. These grievances adversely affect your seniority, vacation, working conditions, benefits and your finances.

If you don't fight, you lose!

September 2010

WCB & SAFETY – MVT with the assistance of Crawford Claims Management Services challenge our members WCB claims as a standard practice. They seem to have no shortage of money to hire Crawford to intimidate and harass regular working people injured on the job. When injured we are under no obligation to divulge any information, or sign any document to Crawford Claims Services. Remember, Crawford's Services works on behalf of MVT and by MVT consistently challenging our members Worksafe claims, it shows their lack of care and their lack of concern for your health and welfare.

Your local highly recommends only filling out the Work Safe form 6 when injured on the job. You are under no obligation whatsoever to fill out any Crawford forms which would disclose your full medical history to a third party investigation company. Your local strongly advises against filling out any forms other than a Work Safe form 6 when injured on the job.

Your local executive board has become aware that Safety is not always an MVT "Priority number 1". The Vancouver Operations Manager has recently sent a member home without pay for refusing a bus with a malfunctioning signal light apparatus. Sadly this situation could have been easily remedied with many spare buses sitting idle at the same location.

MVT has a contractual obligation to ensure a safe work environment. You have a right to refuse work **you feel** is unsafe without retribution intimidation or loss of pay period. Grievance filed!

UNION DUES - There is a union dues increase as of September 17 pay period. The deductions will be deducted bi-weekly instead of monthly.

WE ARE THE UNION – Point-and-shoot cameras give operators the ability to capture unrealistic scheduling & break times. Please make copies of all incident reports, accidents reports & WCB report forms for future reference and defense. Help your Job Steward's by collecting all relevant data or better yet get involved and be one !

"History is a great teacher. Now everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them." [Martin Luther King Jr](#)