

June 2nd, 2005

BCE breaks its word and takes a \$10 million hit

At midnight last night, Bell-Subco picketers rallied at the BCE-owned Globe and Mail's printing and distribution centre in Mississauga in order to protest Bell's stalled bargaining tactics with the hope of encouraging Bell back to the bargaining table.

Under the watchful eye of Peel Regional Police negotiators, the members of CEP Local 1996 and the representatives for the Globe and Mail reached a mutually agreeable picket line protocol to expedite the safe and speedy passage of the Globe's distribution and delivery trucks. Within minutes of reaching an agreement, the company broke its word and attempted to violate its own protocols. Under cover of darkness, the Globe's management had cut down a back fence and ordered its drivers to shut off all running lights. The management then attempted to sneak these vehicles past the picket line by forcing their drivers, with headlights shut down, to drive through the newly cut hole in the fence. This reckless, dangerous and disreputable move has cost the company dearly. In protest for the lack of integrity shown by the company, the Bell-Subco picketers shut down all thoroughfares to any distribution vehicles for the remainder of the night. The company, through its own actions, was forced to dump thousands of newly printed copies of Thursday's Globe and Mail. Very few papers have hit the streets today.

According to Andy Ritchie, VP operations for the Globe and Mail, last night's fiasco cost the company almost \$10 million in wasted printing and delivery costs, labour expenses and lost advertising revenue.

Hopefully Bell will get the message.

Get back to the bargaining table and make a decent offer.

In solidarity,

Francis Bedell

1st VP, CEP L25