

Now it's Clear – Our Fight is with Bell

It is now official that we are on strike against Bell Canada, one of the wealthiest companies in Canada.

On April 30, all strikers received a letter to that effect, along with a clear message that Bell still wants us to accept the same inferior contract that we rejected by 85% on April 16.

But, what Bell doesn't want to acknowledge, is that our strike is getting stronger all across Ontario.

CEP members still working at Bell are now almost to a person observing our request to refrain from working voluntary overtime.

And, while we continue to have the support of our Bell members as they wait in line to leave the work centre, we are now also slowing them down as they do their work in the field.

Flying picket lines, dispatched to all areas where Bell work is being performed, are pushing out customer order dates further and further.

Scabs are also being hunted down and made to feel extremely uncomfortable for stealing our jobs. Many have packed it in and quit.

As a reaction to our increase in picket activity, Bell is also engaging in more desperate measures.

They are hiring summer students in larger numbers than usual. Although Bell is portraying this as business as usual, anyone can see that it is just another desperate attempt at scabbing our work.

CEP has made it clear that we consider it outrageous that Bell would put these young people in the middle of a labour dispute. This is truly strike-breaking at its worst!

Bell also thinks they can shut us down in court, but in the past week we had two major actions by Bell thrown out in court. In one, the judge was not impressed by Bell's request that picketers be forced to stay 10 feet away from vehicles at information pickets.

In another, Bell tried to have contempt of court charges immediately imposed on the Union. CEP lawyers were able to convince the judge that Charter Rights required that the case be put off for a month. As a result, we are able to continue all of our picketing, and to broaden our picket targets.

Over the next days and weeks we are planning a succession of activities in support of our strike. At the BCE shareholders meeting in Toronto, during the Bell-sponsored Memorial Cup Hockey Tournament in London, at huge rallies in downtown Ottawa – CEP will be there.

We must continue to show Bell that we will not stop until we obtain the fair contract that we deserve.

Solidarity Works!

Sean Howes
National Representative

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