



BELL BARGAINING REPORT #20

Thursday, March 27, 2008

To all Bell Locals

Sisters and Brothers,

As requested by the federal mediators, the bargaining committee met this week in Ottawa in an attempt to recommence negotiations.

The bargaining committee feels strongly that by rejecting Bell's first offer by over 88%, members have made it clear that they will not accept concessions to our rights and benefits.

The bargaining committee told Bell that we are anxious to continue negotiations, but want to ensure that our important demands for improvements to the collective agreement are addressed.

The mediator explain to the parties that, following a rejection of a final offer, normally the practice is for the union to explain to the Company why the offer was rejected and start discussion and bargaining to resolve them.

The Company wanted to ask questions on the rejection to understand why and on which issues the offer was rejected. The bargaining committee answer was, we want no concessions, the last offer doesn't exist anymore, and we should start bargaining based on the actual collective agreement.

It appears it may be some time before Bell realizes what it will take to reach a successful settlement.

On March 26, the mediators released the parties, however, they remain available to assist in negotiations when both sides, not just the union side, are ready to negotiate.

In the meantime, members are covered by the terms of the collective agreement and should continue working as normal until further notice.

Your patience is appreciated.

In solidarity,

Richard Chaumont, National Representative
Sean Howes, National Representative