



January 22, 2010

Your Bargaining Committee met with representatives of the Province on January 19 and 20 to commence collective bargaining. We had agreed to an expedited format for talks to explore whether it would provide the opportunity to reach a tentative agreement that we could recommend to members for ratification.

We tabled a focused package reflecting members' key priorities including proposals to:

- Extend the current 13th Master Agreement for 2 years, to March 31, 2012
- Renew Employment Security
- Renew all existing Recruitment and Retention Allowances (RRAs) and reinstate cancelled Retention Incentive Payments for Mines Inspectors and other professionals in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
- Increase wages by 3% on April 1, 2010 and 3% on April 1, 2011
- Increase reimbursement of professional fees to the 2009 fee schedule, and extend entitlement to full reimbursement to part-time employees
- Provide PEA members with access to the Flexible Benefits Plan currently available to excluded employees
- Ensure professionals called on to respond to emergencies outside of their normal duties are advised in advance whether the compensation arrangements outlined in Information Appendix H will be activated

Our proposals reflect the priorities identified by members, reflect the unique value that licensed professionals bring to the public service, and are consistent with the settlements reached by other groups of professionals, including nurses and physicians.

Representatives of the Province tabled proposals reflecting a mandate of "net zero." The employer's position is that savings must be found within the existing collective agreement to provide funding for any improvements to the collective agreement that have a cost impact (including professional fees, benefits, wages, etc.), so that there is no change in the overall cost to the employer over the life of the collective agreement.

It became clear over our two days of discussions that we would not be able, in an expedited format, to achieve a collective agreement settlement that adequately addresses GLP members' priorities.

The Parties have agreed to return to our normal process for collective bargaining with a full agenda of proposals in early February.

GLP Bargaining Committee:

Brian Chow, P.Eng, Chair
Bruce Barnewall, P.Eng
Kathy Danchuk, RPF
Frank Kohlberger, RPF
Susan Pearson, P.Eng
Tigerson Young, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Jodi Jensen, Executive Director