



**INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT
WORKERS'
FEDERATION**

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To Rob Ashton, ILWU President

To all our sisters and brothers of the mighty ILWU Canada.

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) passes on the solidarity of nearly half a million dockworkers worldwide and almost 18.5 million transport workers around the world.

We will be standing with you shoulder to shoulder in solidarity: we will ensure the resources of the ITF are made available to ensure ILWU members get the contract they deserve.

We know that like dockers in every port, Canadian longshore workers went to work around the clock throughout the entirety of the global pandemic to ensure goods, services and cargo was available for import and export, including critical medical and food supplies protecting our communities.

The ILWU Bargaining Committee has every right to feel betrayed by the refusal of the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) to negotiate in good faith on the issues of critical importance to the ILWU Canada membership. Instead of delivering the progressive settlement the ILWU members have worked for, the BCMEA proposals would bring about the systematic destruction of their jobs, rights and entitlements which would have a catastrophic impact not just on the longshore workers, but on the industry and the local community.

The ILWU Canada believes in free collective bargaining and wants the federal government to allow the parties to come to a negotiated settlement without government intervention! The ITF fully endorses this position.

The ITF Dockers Section fully supports the claims of the ILWU Canada membership, specifically the opposition to the erosion of job security through contracting out and automation and the value of their take-home pay. Workers should not suffer cuts to their standard of living during a cost-of-living crisis driven not by workers, but by excessive corporate profits and broader neoliberal economics.

The ITF Dockers Section supports the strike action of the ILWU Canada commencing July 1, 2023, and will mobilise its membership to show support and solidarity. Workers not having the security of a collective agreement for the last three months is reason enough to strike but add to this the failure of the BCMEA to negotiate in good faith and workers are given little choice other than to exercise their democratic right to withdraw their labour.

We call upon the BCMEA to get back to the negotiating table with the ILWU Canada Bargaining Committee and drop its calls for severe concessions. It's time employers invested in their workforce. It was the ILWU Longshore workers whom over a very long period delivered record-profits through their hard work, sacrifice, and dedication in an extremely dangerous industry.

We look forward to seeing your members win the contract they deserve. Until then, you have our unwavering support and solidarity. Keep us updated.

An injury to one is an injury to all!!!!

Solidarity with the ILWU Canada



Paddy Crumlin
ITF President and ITF Dockers Section Chair



Enrico Tortolano
ITF Dockers Coordinator