



BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & TRAINMEN

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT -

Canadian National/Wisconsin Central Ltd - Fox Valley & Western Ltd

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By now you know the tentative Mediation Case A-13676 Agreement failed to ratify, 179 against, 124 in favor. So the immediate question is, what now? The short answer is that we go back into mediation. We do not know how soon the process will get re-started, or where the next meeting or series of meetings will be held. Because of the base of the mediators, we may have to travel to Washington, DC. I have informed the mediator of the negative ratification outcome, so we should know something, we think, fairly soon.

We want to thank everyone for returning the ballots. 72% of the ballots were returned, so we know we had a result that accurately reflected the opinion of the membership. We need to obtain information on what was liked or disliked about the agreement. This information will be most helpful in continuing with our mediation Section 6 negotiations. We believe the ratification process was upset by management's decision to implement a new system for approving PLD's and SDV's, or for that matter, not approving them and not following the proper calling procedures in Seniority District 4 while the vote was underway. The package we had did have its strong points, particularly the work/rest cycle and the over-all economics, so we know that those voting the package down had to have very strong convictions to pass on the upside of the deal.

It is anyone's guess how things will progress from this point. Much depends on the Carrier. Will they look at the obvious flaws and disparities with a view toward making it right and then re-voting essentially the same package? Or will they decide they have to "punish" us by taking a hard line and try to force us to accept some inferior deal? Time will tell. We hope things will progress for the best, but, we must tell you, it is only prudent to prepare for the worst. We might not see another agreement for a long time, and we may well need to rely on your perseverance and solidarity should the circumstances ultimately require. Your negotiating team is as committed as ever to try to get you the best agreement we can. We need your comments, especially from those of you who voted no, about the issues that caused you to reject the agreement. Please go to the GCA website at www.bletcnwcgca.org and click on Section 6 Updates located in the menu at the top of the page to voice your dislikes in the failed Mediation Case A-13676 Tentative Agreement. Your comments will aid us when we return to Section 6 negotiations. We will keep you informed as we go forward.

Fraternally yours,

John W. Reynolds
General Chairman – CN/WC, BLET