

The BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) are currently in negotiations with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Ship and Dock Foremen (ILWU 514) on behalf of all Terminal Operators in BC.

The current contract expired on March 31, 2007 and bargaining effectively started in March 2008 after the settlement of the "Main Industry" Agreement. Bargaining has been difficult and, the union's monetary demands with respect to wages, pensions and benefits are significantly above what has been historically given and well above what the industry and our customers can currently afford. Unable to reach an agreement, the parties moved into conciliation and a conciliator was appointed on October 9, 2008. The parties continued to meet on several occasions but little progress was made towards achieving a reasonable settlement. Under federal law the conciliators are deemed to have "booked out" if the conciliator is unable to reach an agreement within 60 days. The 60 day term expired December 9, 2008. Twenty-one (21) days thereafter the parties are in a legal strike/lockout position. That date would be December 30, 2008. In order to strike/lockout 72 hours notice must be given. Expiry of 72 hours notice is January 02, 2009.

Currently, the two parties are still in communication and the next scheduled meeting is set for Monday December 29th.

As this situation unfolds, Fraser Surrey Docks will keep our Website updated with any developments. Additional information is also available on the BCMEA website at [www.bcmea.com](http://www.bcmea.com) under the "News" button on the home page and sub menu button "Negotiations Update".

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jeff Scott (jeffs@fsd.bc.ca 778-838-8471) or Bill Wehnert (billw@fsd.bc.ca 778-233-8679) directly.

We appreciate your support of Fraser surrey Docks.

Thank you.