



UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the
United States and Canada
LOCAL UNION 488 — Edmonton
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Update on Negotiations (ICI)

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters;

The negotiations for a New Construction Collective Agreement are practically complete, except for the money part, the Wage and Benefit Schedule, which has not been finalized.

The Contractor group (CLRa) seems to think that our wages and benefits should be around where our major competition is at. They remind us of needing to be competitive in the present slow market. That is a reality and until we get this lack of pipelines issue resolved, this lack of major construction projects related to the energy sector will continue. Currently, we do not have enough pipeline capacity to deliver to market the oil and related products that Alberta produces.

This lack of oil sand and related energy projects has created higher unemployment rates in the construction industry and lack of demand for the construction trades including Local 488. However, Local 488 is not interested in starting a race to the bottom on our wages and benefits. We realize that we must be competitive, but I believe that our membership is more skillful, better trained, more productive and doing better quality of work, and work safer.

This should be reflected in our wage and benefit package. The competition has made reductions in their rates along with the fact that most of our signatory contractors are double breasted. This makes it difficult *not* to make a reasonable adjustment to our wage package to secure work, and get us through this slow period for construction. When we get a reasonable wage package, the Agreement will be presented to our membership and then ratification.

Until we have a signed agreement, Local 488 will offer enabled terms to our contractors for the project that they wish to bid on. This will allow them to compete for the jobs, put our members to work and help determine the market value for our services.

Brothers and Sisters, this is not an easy time for Local 488; we have a large local in a slow economy and correspondingly low demand for our services. This Local, its Officers and staff, are working hard to support and assist our membership by trying to create job opportunities and sustain the standards and values we believe in, such as pension, health care, training and safety, to help improve the lives of our members and all working people. Values which we have embraced for the 115 years of our history. We have had slow periods before and will most likely again in the future. We are a Union of diverse people wanting to improve our lives and through unity and solidarity, we will come through these slow economic times.

You will shortly be receiving the June edition of the Pipeline Newsletter where I speak further on this subject.

Fraternally;



Robert Taylor
Business Manager