IBEW LOCAL 1007

IBEW 1007 Important Update (Technologies)

JUNE 18, 2020 - EDMONTON

On June 11, 2020, IBEW Local 1007 was called to a meeting at EPCOR Tower to discuss the future of EPCOR Technologies. We had no prior knowledge of the meeting or the specific topics. We learned at the meeting that EPCOR is looking for significant changes to the Technologies group, including re-opening the wage rates, and also changes to the collective agreement as it applies to our members in Technologies and potentially other EPCOR units.

Since that meeting I have been in regular contact with our IBEW International Representative, and our Legal Counsel, to discuss our options.

On Tuesday afternoon, I asked EPCOR to issue a statement to our IBEW members with some of the details of the June 11th meeting. Unfortunately, they have refused to do so.

They were willing to say the following to me in writing:

> **A further decline in work volumes in 2021 is expected given that street lighting and traffic signal work has decreased significantly, and costs of the Technologies business are not competitive in a non-regulated marketplace.**

Let me attempt to break down that statement for you. Based on my many years of personal experience I'll translate.

> **A further decline in work volumes in 2021 is expected given that street lighting and traffic signal work has decreased significantly**

Translation: There will be layoffs at the end of this current construction season.

> **Costs of the Technologies business are not competitive in a non-regulated marketplace**

Translation: EPCOR is going to seek wage rollbacks for our members at Technologies, and likely other changes to the collective agreement.

Therefore, I have told EPCOR that IBEW 1007 needs to form a committee to meet with EPCOR and review what EPCOR is seeking to change. The membership will vote on potential changes to the collective agreement - if we see value in even considering any significant changes for the Technologies group.

I will chair the committee, and both Assistant Business Managers will sit on the committee. It will have representation from our members in Technologies and at least one member from outside of Technologies because changes may impact everyone. The committee will also seek regular input from our International Representative and Legal Counsel.

After reviewing our options, I think this is the best approach to take because of the potential impact of EPCOR's decisions on hundreds of our members.

Next Steps:

I want to have a committee formed by June 25, 2020 and I will be contacting members who I think will be best suited for the role.

I know you'll have a ton of questions, and I'll do my best to answer them. Other than the information and my opinions above I honestly don't know what more I can tell you. If there is more, I will post it here on this site. If you have a relevant question, I will the post your question and my reply here, on this website.

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