

IBEW LOCAL 1007



IBEW 1007 Update (Technologies)

JULY 17, 2020 - EDMONTON

As mentioned on this website on June 29, 2020, I struck an IBEW 1007 Steering Committee to consider some options presented to our Local by EPCOR regarding the future of EPCOR Technologies.

The committee consisted of Daryl Royer (Local 1007 President), Bill Pylypa, Joel Kwasny, Ryan Carruthers, Richard Vercholuk, Rob Miccolis & Jimmy Connor.

Non-Voting members: Roberta Hykawy, Mike Boyd.

We met with EPCOR on July 13, 2020 at the EPCOR tower. The Company presented a brief history of the difficulties Technologies have faced, as well as a look into the future of that department. The Company suggested we renegotiate the terms and conditions of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, but only as it pertains to Technologies.

The Company suggested an addendum to the current CBA. In layman's language it simply means an agreement within an agreement.

The Steering Committee unanimously agreed the proposal would isolate Technologies from the rest of EPCOR. **We felt such a decision would be a betrayal of the basic principles of our Union. It would also open the door to similar concessions across all business units.**

Among the Company's suggestions (for Technology members only) were the following;

- A 20% reduction to the IBEW hourly rates for every IBEW member there.
- Overtime premium reduced from double time to time and a half.
- Technologies unhinged from the main body and other business units for displacement purposes.
- Seniority isolated within Technologies (*therefore no bumping outside of the dept. This was one of the sticking points. If there were layoffs it would have meant that someone outside of Technologies with less than 7 years seniority today, would be kept over someone at Technologies with 12 years' service. That's just not fair, that's a betrayal of Union principles*)
- Also, Brothers and Sisters, even if we agreed to these concessions, and there were more, there would still be layoffs.

We will not open the Collective Agreement!

We will not renegotiate the agreed upon terms and conditions!

We will not sell out our Brothers and Sisters in Technologies!

We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided

The Committee has unanimously rejected the idea of opening the CBA to negotiate new terms and conditions for Technologies only, and I will explain why we came to that decision.

We are accountable, not only for what we do, but also for what we do not do.

Where we go from here is uncertain at this point. I cannot get an answer from City Councilors or from the City of Edmonton Administration regarding the True cost of the contractors who stole the work IBEW 1007 members have been doing for the past 82 years.

I've pointed out the shoddy tradecraft, the very serious safety violations and the shortcuts many of those people take. I've sent them images and videos of the lack of professional conduct by several of these contractors. It all seems to fall on deaf ears. It will off course come back to bite the Edmonton taxpayer, who will end up picking up the bill when they run the system in to the ground.

EPCOR Tower and City Hall are physically about the length of a football field apart, those buildings are filled with some very smart people. How did we get here?

EPCOR's own investor updates confirm that the company made \$50M in profit just in the first 3 months of 2020 and says that its 2020 will be strong despite everything going on. It begs the question, why does EPCOR need to cut wages of IBEW 1007 members with that kind of profit on the books?

I worked as a consultant in the petrochemical industry for years looking after some very talented people, trades and non-trades, engineers and superintendents, among others. I never, ever, came across a group of workers who could hold a candle to our IBEW 1007 workforce. The work done by our men and women is second to none. We have done our jobs as laid out in the IBEW Code of Excellence. We have done nothing wrong.

Sometimes it seems as if everyone I talk to knows our worth except the shareholder.

Thank you so much to the Steering Committee for stepping up, that took guts.

Brothers and Sisters don't let them divide and conquer us. We are a Union, lets take these challenges on together.

Please stay focused, work safely, and look out for each out there.

Your proud Business Manager,
Jimmy Connor