



## Corrections ratifies new collective agreement

Members of the Corrections Bargaining Unit have ratified their new agreement for the 2009-2012 Collective Agreement. In votes held March 4-6, members voted 84 per cent in favour of the tentative agreement.

Corrections Bargaining Team Chair David Kerr says this vote should send a very strong message to the employer: Our teams are elected by the members and represent their wishes - you must always take us seriously.

“Back in December, our team told the employer what our members would accept and what they wouldn’t accept,” Kerr said. “We asked our members to give us a significant strike vote, and they delivered it. When we got the tentative agreement, we asked our members to accept the agreement, and once again they delivered.”

Bargaining team Vice-Chair Pete Wright says that this kind of member support is what makes the difference, especially when facing tough negotiations in tough times.

“Our members said in a loud voice that they backed their bargaining team and the decisions we made,” Wright said. “This will pave the way for the future of all of our negotiations, and our members will reap the rewards for years to come.”

The team acknowledges the incredible work done by the corrections mobilizers, from keeping members informed to organizing events to pressure the employer in the days and weeks leading up to the agreement.

“They were everywhere, working countless hours and traveling hundreds of kilometers,” Kerr said. “The mobilizers were the key to our success at the table. We really couldn’t have accomplished as much as we did without their work and dedication.”

Although the agreement is now ratified, Kerr said that the real work on the contract is about to begin. “We have a lot of new language in this collective agreement, and it will take some time to establish how it works on a day-to-day basis. Our MERC teams, Provincial Health and Safety teams and our local leaders will be very busy in the months ahead.”

Team members David Kerr, Pete Wright, Paul Johnstone, Tom O’Neill, Dave Graves, John Mearini and Richard Cunningham thank all members of the Corrections Bargaining Unit for their “Rock Solid” support.

### Authorized for distribution:

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