



Federal Government Dockyard Trades & Labour Council (West)



Bulletin

March 10, 2025

Binding Arbitration

We regret to inform the membership that our mediation/arbitration sessions scheduled for March 29 and April 1, 2025 have been postponed by the employer.

Treasury Board Chief Negotiator Stephen Diotte, who is the Executive Director of Strategic Compensation Management (Employee Relations and Total Compensation Sector) in the Office of the Chief Human Resources Officer at Treasury Board Secretariat, sent a letter to the Chairperson of the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board (FPSLREB) last week. A portion of that letter is pasted below in *italics*:

“Dear Ms. Bramwell and Members of the Ship Repair West Arbitration Board:

The mediation session for the Ship Repair (West) bargaining unit is scheduled for March 29, 2025, in Victoria, British Columbia, with the virtual arbitration hearing following shortly after on April 1, 2025.

Given the recognized compensation differences between the East and West groups, that have existed since 2010, I believe there is a need to further explore the options to address the wage gap. As the Chief Negotiator for the Government of Canada, I need to be directly involved in the dispute resolution process for Ship Repair (West), particularly the mediation. Unfortunately, I will be out of the country on March 29th and not available on the scheduled date. As such, the Employer respectfully requests an adjournment of the scheduled proceedings (March 29th and April 1st) until my return with the goal of reaching a mediated settlement.”

Our legal counsel Mr. Ron Pink responded with our very strong opposition to the postponement for numerous reasons, however the arbitration panel agreed to grant the postponement request. A portion of their reply is pasted below in *italics*:

“Re: Federal Government Dockyards Trades and Labour Council and Treasury Board of Canada (Esquimalt BC – Ship Repair West)

As you know, the FPSLRB received an adjournment requested from TB for the forthcoming mediation and arbitration (separate dates). As you are also aware, by email dated March 6, 2025, the arbitration board was directed to consider and respond to that request.

The arbitration board has now had the opportunity to do so, and we have decided to grant the request on the basis that the parties cooperate with us in making their very best efforts in finding replacement dates in May or June 2025.”

We understand the frustration and disappointment all members will be experiencing after reading this news, we feel the same. There has been a tremendous amount of work done in preparation for the sessions, and we were anticipating receiving a fair decision in the coming weeks. We cannot alter this decision to postpone, and will inform the membership as soon as the new dates are agreed upon.

We remind all members that despite how upsetting this is, we must continue to perform our very important daily work on behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy, ensuring that the ships and submarines we maintain are able to safely and securely operate anywhere around the world where the RCN sends them.

In solidarity,

Des

**Des Rogers
President
FGDTLC (W)**