

2012 AUTO TALKS

#AUTOTALKS

September 21, 2012

Meeting the Pattern at GM

Last night, the CAW announced a new four-year tentative agreement with General Motors. When the Ford agreement was first reached, GM was quick to claim that they could not meet the pattern. We believed though that if the committee continued to push ahead, we would ultimately be successful.

Make no mistake, this was a very challenging set of negotiations. At several junctures during the talks, it was not clear as to whether an agreement could be reached. After several days of around the clock negotiations and a number of proposals and counter proposals back and forth, we successfully arrived at the pattern agreement.

The new agreement rewards workers (including active SWEs) for their hard work and past sacrifices with a \$3,000 ratification bonus as well as cost-of-living lump sum payments (to be paid before the Christmas holiday period) of \$2,000 in each of 2013, 2014, and 2015.

The agreement also protects the current pension benefits for existing workers and offers incremental improvements in benefits, including dental care. What's more though is that the deal positions the CAW-GM facilities for full employment over the life of the deal and a real future in the Canadian automotive industry. Importantly, it also lays out provisions to limit the use of the SWE program and allow the option for SWEs to become full seniority members.

Further details of the agreement will be presented at the ratification meetings.

Ratification schedule:

CAW Local 222 - Wednesday, September 26 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – General Motors Centre 99 Athol Street East, Oshawa

CAW Local 199 - Thursday, September 27 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – Location to be determined

CAW Local 636 - Thursday, September 27 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. – CAW Local 636 Hall 126 Beale Street, Woodstock

In the meantime, our negotiating team will continue carefully reviewing and shoring up final contract language, including on specific local issues, and prepare for our upcoming ratification votes.

We unanimously recommend the agreement for ratification in all locations.

Thank you for your support during this difficult set of negotiations.

In solidarity,

The CAW-GM Master Bargaining Committee

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