

October 7, 2014

Federal Court Hearing This Week

Court challenge over Public Service Labour Relations Board ruling to be heard Wednesday, October 8

Our union has won scheduling and work assignment protections several times in arbitration. Despite this, we received a decision from the chair of the Labour Board last year saying that our seniority-based proposals for our Statistical Survey Operations bargaining units – both the RO and FI groups – cannot be dealt with in arbitration.

We filed a Federal Court challenge in response, contesting the decision of the labour board. In the meantime all of the other matters associated with our contract dispute with SSO were submitted to arbitration.

The Federal Court will hear our arguments on October 8, 2014. If we are successful in our challenge, we will contact the employer to set dates to negotiate, and we will contact the Board to reconvene the arbitration panels. If we are unsuccessful, the arbitration panels will issue their awards on all other matters outstanding and we will begin the process for the next round of negotiations.

We are all frustrated at the time this has taken, and by SSO's delay tactics. But we are committed to getting our key issues addressed with SSO – including provisions in our collective agreements that respect our years of service and provide better income stability for employees.

Regardless of what the Federal Court decides, we will continue our fight for fair rules for work assignments for both regional office and field interviewer staff. SSO needs to treat its employees with respect.

We'll be sure to update as things progress.

For more information, contact a bargaining team member, or visit psacunion.ca.



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