



Significant Changes

There is an email currently floating through the blogosphere, alleging that the CEP National Executive made a declaration that Bell's latest offer included "significant changes", and therefore, ordered that the offer be sent for a vote of the members.

This is untrue.

While the CEP constitution reserves upon the National President the right to allow members to vote on a Company offer that includes significant changes, in this case the decision to vote was made exclusively by local delegates from Ontario and Quebec at the bargaining caucus.

The Bell Bargaining Game Plan gives to the caucus two important responsibilities after bargaining has commenced – to break a tie vote among the members of the bargaining committee, and to decide what the recommendation will be when an offer is being voted on by the members.

In this case, the caucus fulfilled both responsibilities at the meeting on May 7, 2008.

Following Bell's submission of their latest offer to the bargaining committee on May 5, there was a vote of the six rank-and-file members of the bargaining committee as to whether the offer should be brought out for a vote, or not. There was a tie vote on the issue, which meant that caucus had to be called in order to break the tie.

After a full review of the offer at caucus, a motion was passed by 70% of the delegates. The motion stated that the offer should be sent to the members for ratification and that the offer should be recommended for acceptance.

The National President did not invoke his right to declare that there were significant changes in Bell's offer and allow members to vote. The elected local officers from all Bell locals made this decision themselves, democratically.

It is important, as we vote on Bell's offer, that we continue to deal with the facts.

In Solidarity

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