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NEGOTIATE DON'T LEGISLATE

The Trudeau government wants back to work legislation to end the rotating strikes by postal workers in Canada. This was already done by the previous Harper government and shows contempt for the process of collective bargaining. In a previous court ruling on back to work legislation in 2016, the presiding judge Stephen Firestone decided that the Tory back to work legislation was unconstitutional. He found that it allowed the corporation to bargain in bad faith - not actually looking for a deal - knowing that the workers would be sent back to work by legislation.

Trudeau is showing that, when it comes to workers rights in Canada they are on side with the bosses as much as the Harper Tories were.

"We are still here and ready to negotiate, but what about Canada Post? Says Mike Palecek, CUPW National President. "We do not know what will be in the back-to-work legislation. No matter what, we have to be prepared to fight for your constitutional right for



free collective bargaining. We went to court and won this fight after the 2011 legislation. We will fight once again, should that right be taken away."

The rotating strikes are working in applying pressure to the bosses. They are happening on short notice which means there isn't a chance to organize scabs to do the work. It is a surprise attack approach. Members are taking initiative and have developed internal organization of the strike and a chain of command to respond to strike call on 30

minutes notice. Workers on the picket lines are showing

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***-Mike Palecek, CUPW National
President***

great enthusiasm for the strike

with 85 percent of workers polled in favour of the union leaders plan.

Striking for Decent Jobs

What are the workers fighting for? They want new and better protections for the workers who are suffering a huge increase in work related injuries. In the last 4 years more than 14,000 workers have had disabling injuries. Carriers are being forced onto longer routes with much heavier loads. The increase in weight comes from both an increase in parcel traffic and having many fewer storage boxes on route.

"Our issues are ones that everyone out there will relate to," continues Palecek. "Our members need to see their families at the end of the day, our RSMC (rural) members must be paid for all the hours that they work. We must be able to deliver Christmas without relying so heavily on precarious employment, without the highest rate of debilitating injuries," says Palecek.

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Striking for decent jobs!



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There is no reason for this to be happening. Canada post is making money - \$144 million in 2017 and could use some of that surplus to make the kind of changes that the union is asking for. But instead, the corporation offered a deal that doesn't address the key issues for the workers. It was rejected.

"These offers are a step

in the right direction, however, both the Urban and RSMC offers do not seriously address the major issues of our members – health and safety, equality and creating more full time jobs and less precarious work," says Palecek.

A key demand is to improve letter carrier mail sorting. 'Merging and sorting mail on the street while walking, or in the back of a vehicle is

unsafe and will jeopardize the safety of letter carriers', said Palecek. "Canada Post continues to ignore this key demand. We will not give up."

The strike which began October the 22nd has been a rotating strike, going from city to city across the country. For the first time, both urban and rural postal workers are bargaining and striking together. CUPW has called for an overtime ban so

that no one works more than 8 hours a day. The rotating strikes are beginning to have an effect as mail volumes are beginning to increase for the holiday season and backlogs are building up.

Working people should be on the lookout for picket lines in your area. The posties need your support and solidarity to end this assault on the right to collective bargaining.

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