



LOCAL 1518

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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September 19, 2002

**TO ALL UFCW LOCAL 1518 MEMBERS
EMPLOYED BY OVERWAITEA/SAVE ON FOODS**

Dear Members:

Re: Overwaitea/Loman Warehouse

I believe that most members are aware of the current dispute at the Overwaitea/Loman Warehouse.

Two hundred thirty of our members at the Warehouse, many of them long term employees with twenty years of service to the company, will lose their jobs at the end of September. Overwaitea/Save On has found people who will work for as little as half of what our members earn, and have simply given away our members' jobs.

This move by the Company has nothing to do with lowering the cost of groceries for customers to increase business, or to provide its retail employees with more hours; it has everything to do with simple corporate greed. Overwaitea/Save On will simply take the money out of the pockets of the warehouse members, and put it on the Company's bottom line.

Even though the Company is making money it still wants more, and this time it wants to take it out of the pockets of our members at the Warehouse!

Over the past several weeks the members employed at the Warehouse have been leafleting Overwaitea and Save On stores across the province, telling customers about the fight to save their jobs and asking customers to shop elsewhere. The leaflet campaign is designed to apply pressure to Overwaitea Food Group, and convince them to keep the Warehouse open. To date the campaign has been effective. Many customers are taking their business elsewhere.

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Over the summer the impact on our retail members employed by the Company has been minimal. There were enough hours in the stores due to summer vacations that few members saw a reduction in their hours. However, now that vacations are over there is little doubt that the reduction in business, brought on by the leafleting, will result in a reduction of hours for members in the stores.

The last thing your coworkers at the Warehouse have wanted to do is to impact the hours for members employed in the stores. But, these people have no choice. The Union has made every effort through legal channels and other methods to convince Overwaitea/Save On not to close the Warehouse. So far, the company is ignoring all of our efforts.

The position of the Union is simple. If Overwaitea/Save On is successful in its attempt to do away with the 230 good paying jobs at the Warehouse, they may very well decide to come after your wages, benefits and job security next!

You and your coworkers can help end this dispute by telling your store management to tell the Company that it should respect the years of loyalty and hard work our members in the Warehouse have given to Overwaitea/Save On. The Company should not give away their jobs to others just because others will work for less. The members at the Warehouse are not only fighting to save their jobs, they are fighting to save your wages and benefits as well. They deserve your support!

There are two things the Overwaitea/Save On members can do to help the members in the Warehouse. First, stop shopping at your store and tell your manager why. Second, take a couple of hours a week and join the warehouse members leafleting Save On stores. (You will not be asked to leaflet at your own store.) If you wish to help please call Tony @ 604-786-7234, Gary @ 604-786-5900, or Dean @ 604-250-3713.

I know that support for the members at the Warehouse will create some hardship for less senior members working in the stores. But, by fighting the company on this issue we may persuade management to continue employing our warehouse members.

In solidarity,



Brooke Sundin
President
BS/cd

cc Union Representatives, Directors & Supervisors
UPCW Local 1518 Executive Board

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