

Clerical Bargaining Unit Negotiations

Paul Lefebvre – General Chairperson Central Region

Your IAM – Air Canada Clerical Negotiations Committee consisting of Sisters Rhonda MacLachlan (YYZ) and Frances Pion (YUL), as well as Brothers Ron McKelvie (YVR) and General Chairperson Paul Lefebvre, participated in a comprehensive Air Canada specific training session at the IAM Winpisinger Education and Technology Center from April 05 through 10. We were joined by two other IAM – Air Canada Negotiations Committees, one representing members working in Airports /Cargo and Technical Operations (TMOS) and the other representing Winnipeg Finance. The three committees and their assigned General Chairpersons formulated bargaining strategies with the assistance of IAM Instructors, Economists, Research and Legal Experts. All who attended agreed the training was top-notch and will certainly be beneficial moving into what we believe will be a difficult round of negotiations.

We would like to thank Canadian General Vice-President Dave Ritchie and District Lodge 140 President, Chuck Atkinson for their efforts to provide what was the most comprehensive negotiations course ever undertaken by our Union. Brother Ritchie coined our task best when asked about the state of Air Canada and the economy going into bargaining. “We are moving forward, not back” declared the GVP. He backed that statement up by advising that his office will be providing our Negotiations Teams with Staff Experts, Legal and Communications personnel. In particular National Air Transport Coordinator Carlos Dacosta, Communications Specialists Frank Saptel and Bill Trbovich, IAM Economist Lou Erlichman, as well as Lawyers Amanda Pask and Hugh O’Reilly (Pension) will assist your committees all the way through. It is certainly uplifting for your Negotiations Reps to have immediate access to such highly skilled assistance.

Your Clerical Bargaining Committee has formulated a member Negotiations Survey with the assistance of IAM Strategic Resources Department. It will be distributed nationwide on or about May 01. Arrangements are being made through local IAM Reps to distribute the survey to those members at locations where Frances, Rhonda and Ron do not have practical access to do so. The information gathered from the survey will be utilized in creating the IAM Clerical Negotiations Agenda from which we will work towards your new Collective Agreement. A Clerical Bargaining information link is also being set-up on your IAM District Lodge 140 Website. The particular Web address to the site will be communicated to all once it is up and running. We already know that Air Canada has been putting your managers through up to 3 ‘Negotiations Seminars’ designed to ‘tell their story’, while attempting to divide and confuse us. That is why it is of utmost importance that all members remain connected to the process through official Union communications. Please stay tuned.