Aurizon Negotiations: the Delegate's view

Contrary to the written information we have all received from management significant progress has been made this week in negotiations between Aurizon and our workplace representatives. We have always maintained that number and coverage of the agreements was a major negotiation hurdle and we have struck an in principle agreement this week regarding the number of collective agreements to be bargained. These will be:

1. Construction/Maintenance and Maintenance support
2. Traincrew and Transport Operations
3. Staff
4. Train Control and Service Deployment

The management have reserved the right to insist on a single white collar agreement if the staff and train control agreements look similar at the end of the negotiations and have refused to include non-trade supervisors in the construction and maintenance agreement in an attempt to break our union culture. We have reserved the right to fight for the inclusion of our supervisors and maintain the two separate staff agreements are necessary and will keep up that fight as the talks progress.

While we are pleased with this development on the number of agreements, we remain committed to the fight to keep the conditions that keep us safe at work and deliver us work life balance we have taken on board your views that a mere wage rise is meaningless without your conditions.

We'll be back in the workplace soon and hold meetings to keep you updated about the progress so far.