

Unity Council

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Tampa management stays out of talks –

St. Andrews to Ratify Tentative Agreement on July 31

Negotiations between local management in St. Andrews, Manitoba, and Local 8740 were concluded on July 6, with workers set to vote July 31, on a tentative agreement covering the 110 workers at Gerdau's scrap prep facility adjacent to its Selkirk mill.

"We reached this settlement following two weeks of bargaining," said staff rep Tony Sproule. "There were no signs of interference from Tampa. Gerdau's lead negotiator is an attorney who has had a long-standing relationship in bargaining our agreements and he assured us that local people had control over negotiations.

"No doubt, this laid the groundwork for amicable negotiations," Sproule said. "The talks proceeded

smoothly, and we reached the tentative agreement in a short amount of time."

While complete details are being withheld until the members ratify, the tentative agreement provides wage increases, substantial pension increases, improved health and safety language and the creation of new maintenance positions that potentially will create new hiring.

The agreement requires the company to provide work clothing, including parkas and all winter outerwear needed in the Manitoba winters.

A new arbitration process will be established that should speed grievance handling and Gerdau will pay Health & Safety committee members during an annual 30-day leave for training purposes.

Gerdau says it will pay profit sharing owed at Calvert City

An article filed today in the BNA Daily Labor Report states that Gerdau has said it will pay the \$2 million profit-sharing owed to the 120 members of Local 9447-5 in Calvert City, Ky.

Gerdau made the absurd claim that its actions in withholding the profit-sharing were "conducted in good faith," and that is why no further penalty was assessed by the arbitrator.

The truth is that the arbitrator provided the maximum penalty possible under the labor agreement by making each worker whole with the cash award. The arbitrator went one step further, allowing for interest payments if the profit-sharing checks are not issued within 60 days.

