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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Pacific Coach Lines Workers Vote 91% in Favour of Strike Action

**Vancouver, BC** – CAW members at Pacific Coach Lines voted **91% in favour of strike action** if necessary to achieve a fair collective agreement at a series of meetings held on November 26 and 27, 2009.

Pacific Coach Lines (PCL) (<u>www.pacificcoach.com</u>) provides scheduled cross-water bus service from downtown Victoria to downtown Vancouver on board BC Ferries and also through to the Vancouver International Airport (YVR). Pacific Coach Lines also has an exclusive contract to transport passengers from the Vancouver Airport to Whistler in a service branded as Whistler Skylynx.

The CAW contract with PCL expired on March 31, 2009 and negotiations have been ongoing since July 2009. The Union met with the Company for over 15 days of negotiations and has attended mediation at the BC Labour Relations Board with no success.

The Union is now in a legal position to serve 72 hours strike notice to PCL and then move toward job action at any time over the next 90 days.

"We're asking the Employer get serious about negotiating a new collective agreement" said CAW National Representative Gavin McGarrigle. "The Whistler ski season is now upon us and the Olympics are just around the corner. A strike at PCL would lead to a serious disruption of private passenger bus service to key BC tourism locations at a critical time" he added.

**CAW Local 114** (<u>www.caw114.bc.ca</u>) represents a bargaining unit of 127 workers at Pacific Coach Lines including drivers, mechanics, service staff and ticket agents. Major outstanding bargaining concerns include wide-ranging demands for concessions by the Employer, contracting out, wages, benefits, and pension contributions.

Further bargaining dates have not yet been scheduled.

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For further information, please contact **Gavin McGarrigle**, **National Representative** at (778) 668-6455 or email <a href="mailto:gavin.mcgarrigle@caw.ca">gavin.mcgarrigle@caw.ca</a>

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