

November 23, 2011

Viking Air Workers Vote 94% in Favour of Strike Action

(Sidney, BC) CAW members at Viking Air voted 94% in favour of strike action if necessary to achieve a fair collective agreement at a series of meetings held on October 28, 2011.

The key issues are wages and cost of living increases, benefits, and job security protection as the Company ramps up to deal with a backlog of over 50 orders for the new Twin Otter aircraft.

“The workers at Viking Air have been pushing hard to increase the production rates of the new Twin Otter aircraft and have been patiently waiting for over a year for a new agreement” said CAW National Representative Gavin McGarrigle. “Our members have made Viking Air the success it is today and they deserve a fair collective agreement now.”

The CAW contract expired last year on October 31, 2010. CAW Local 114 has been certified to represent the workers at Viking Air since 1995.

Further direct bargaining dates will take place in Sidney on November 23, 24, 25, 2011.

Viking Air (www.vikingair.com) is an aircraft manufacturing and repair firm based on Vancouver Island near Sidney, British Columbia. Viking is re-starting production of the famed de Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft. With the new product, Viking will be the only manufacturer of complete aircraft in Western Canada; the firm has opened a satellite facility in Calgary, Alberta to deal with the expansion.

CAW Local 114 (www.caw114.bc.ca) currently represents a bargaining unit of 270 workers at Viking Air including aircraft mechanics, machinists, sheetmetal mechanics, painters, welders, storepersons and labourers.

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For further information, please contact **Gavin McGarrigle, National Representative at (778) 668-6455** or email gavinm@caw.ca.

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