Steelworkers Local 1-405 Kootenays

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

GALLOWAY BULLETIN July 3, 2026

SEVERANCE HAS FINALLY BEEN PAID TO GALLOWAY EMPLOYEES

USW Local 1-405 are relieved to finally announce that the employees, who's operation was closed by the Peak Renewables/Fehr ownership group almost 4 years ago, have been paid their long-awaited severance.

The Collective Agreement that governed the Galloway operation ensured that these employees were to receive severance for the permanent closure of this sawmill. The ownership group delayed the announcement of permanent closure for almost two years even though the belief was it was never coming back into production after that fateful day in December of 2022.

Once the announcement was made the Local Union proceeded as per the BC Labour Code to enter into a closure agreement with the ownership group of Galloway. In early 2025 the parties signed an agreement outlining the closure and how the effected employees would be compensated for their years of dedication and service to Galloway Sawmill. This payment was scheduled to be paid in early April of 2025 according to the agreement however payment did not occur and the long battle for payment began.

Through Arbitrator Corrine Bell we were able to secure an award that was issued in May of 2026 and subsequently the Galloway management team provided payment to the listed employees.

This battle should not have had to proceed as the Collective Agreement language was clear and concise, but the owners chose to ignore their contractual obligations at the expense of these employees. They sold the sawmill for parts, they sold the land, they kept logging the tenure attached to Galloway and made all sorts of profits ignoring their commitment to pay the severance owed.

With all this said the USW 1-405 can now put this issue to rest and hopefully no one else suffers the hardships that this group of employees did at the hands of the Peak/Fehr Group.

If you would like more information via e-mail, please send a quick message to Grant Farquhar at gfarquhar@usw1-405.ca