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Canada Industrial Relations Board to be asked to reconsider Teamster certification for rail workers

TORONTO, June 10 /CNW/ - The United Steelworkers will seek reconsideration of a decision by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to certify the Teamsters' union as the bargaining agent for track maintenance employees of Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

"We believe the board should have ordered a vote between the United Steelworkers and the Teamsters," said Steelworkers' National Director Ken Neumann. "Such a vote would ensure that all BMW members in Canada have a say in who they want to represent them in the workplace."

Neumann said the Teamsters have misrepresented the Steelworkers' role in working with Canadian members of the BMW.

"Teamsters have misled BMW members, telling them that signing a Teamsters' union card would allow them to decide their future by way of a democratic vote, and that workers who want Steelworkers to represent them are holding up the processing of grievances and finalizing a collective agreement."

Neumann said the CIRB's role should be to uphold fairness in the process of selecting a bargaining agent.

"We think the Teamsters misled people and used questionable tactics in gathering a majority of cards," he said. "We believe that a vote is the only just and fair method of ensuring that the wishes of BMW members in Canada are respected."

Last month, BMW members were granted an injunction by the Ontario Superior Court, which prevented the Teamsters from implementing a takeover of the BMW Canadian membership.

"BMW members are justifiably confused by all these shenanigans," said Neumann. "The CIRB must in all fairness reconsider its decision and order a vote."

For further information: Ken Neumann, (416) 487-1571, (604) 220-0607;
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