Beat: News

All Picketing Activities Have Ceased

Tentative Agreement Reached

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USPA NEWS - UPDATE: A major breakthrough has been achieved in the WestJet flight attendants' strike, with the union and airline reaching a tentative agreement in the early hours of Monday morning.

In a statement posted by the WestJet Component of CUPE, the union announced:

"As of 4:15 am on August 3rd, we are no longer on strike as we have reached a tentative agreement with the Company."

Picketing activities have been suspended, and flight attendants have been directed to resume their duties as the agreement proceeds to a ratification vote by union members.

A promising new agreement is on the horizon, with both the union and WestJet announcing that it will bring significant enhancements to compensation, including fairer recognition of time spent on pre- and post-flight duties, as well as wage increases and improved benefits.

The brief work stoppage led to widespread disruptions over the Canadian holiday weekend, with numerous flights cancelled and roughly 250,000 passengers affected as WestJet strives to restore its flight schedule. The airline has advised that it may take several days for operations to fully resume normalcy.

On Sunday, amidst thousands of frustrated travelers, WestJet's CEO did not mince words. As the airline began cancelling flights ahead of one of Canada's busiest travel weekends, Alexis von Hoensbroech publicly attributed the flight attendants' union, stating its strike notice had necessitated the airline to initiate shutdown of operations.

The strike, which involved approximately 4,400 flight attendants, centered on the long-standing issue of unpaid work.

This development signifies a major advancement in the ongoing struggle by flight attendants across North America to achieve recognition and fair compensation for all their responsibilities, both in-flight and on the ground.

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