

# COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

Stong's Markets Ltd.

and

United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1518

New Full Service Locations Collective Agreement

*January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2023*

## CONTENTS

Section 1 - BARGAINING AGENCY .....	1
Section 2 -UNION SHOP .....	1
Section 3 - DEDUCTION OF UNION DUES .....	2
Section 4 - CLERKS WORK CLAUSE .....	2
Section 5 - HOURS OF WORK .....	2
Section 6 - CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES .....	5
Section 7 - WAGES .....	6
Section 8 -VACATIONS .....	9
Section 9 - HEALTH AND WELFARE.....	10
Section 10 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE.....	12
Section 11 - SCHEDULING HOURS OF WORK.....	14
Section 12 - NOTICE OR PAY IN LIEU OF NOTICE.....	15
Section 13 - SENIORITY .....	16
Section 14 -UNION'S RECOGNITION OF MANAGEMENT'S RIGHTS.....	17
Section 15 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....	17
Section 16 - ARBITRATION .....	18
Section 17 - MISCELLANEOUS.....	19
Section 18 - HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE.....	21
Section 19 - TIME OFF FOR UNION BUSINESS - UNION REPRESENTATION .....	21
Section 20 - EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL .....	23
Letter of Understanding #1 - Night Stocking .....	24
Letter of Understanding #2 - New Departments.....	24
Letter of Understanding #3 – Start-up Agreement .....	24
Letter of Understanding #4 – Transfers .....	24
Letter of Understanding #5 – Credit for Previous Experience, Section 6.01 .....	24
Letter of Understanding #6 – 2019 Re-opener .....	25
Letter of Understanding #7 – Minimum Wage.....	25

## Stong's Markets Ltd. Collective Agreement

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2013.

**BY AND BETWEEN:**                    **Stong's Markets Ltd.**

(Hereinafter referred to as the "EMPLOYER")

**AND:**                                    **UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION,  
LOCAL 1518**, chartered by the United Food and Commercial Workers  
International Union, C.L.C.

(Hereinafter referred to as the "UNION")

**WHEREAS:** The Employer and the Union desire to establish and maintain conditions which will promote a harmonious relationship between the Employer and the employees covered by the terms of this Agreement and desire to provide methods of fair and amicable adjustment of disputes which may arise between them;

**NOW THEREFORE:** The Employer and the Union mutually agree as follows:

### Section 1 - BARGAINING AGENCY

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**1.01** This Collective Agreement does not apply to the Stong's Markets located at 4560 Dunbar (or the re-developed location), in the City of Vancouver, which will continue to be covered by a separate Collective Agreement.

**1.02** The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive collective bargaining agent with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours and all other conditions of employment set out in this Agreement for all employees employed in other Stong's Markets Ltd. stores owned and operated by the Employer in the Lower Mainland (including North Vancouver and West Vancouver), save and except the Store Manager, Assistant Managers (2), Department Managers, and those persons above the rank of Department Manager.

The following positions shall be considered Manager positions: Front-End Manager, Produce Manager, Bakery Manager, and Specialty Department Manager.

**1.03** Notwithstanding this Collective Agreement does not apply to the Stong's Markets located at 4560 Dunbar (or the redeveloped location), all Stong's Markets will be considered part of a single bargaining unit.

### Section 2 -UNION SHOP

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**2.01** The Employer agrees to retain in its employ, within the bargaining unit as outlined in Section 1 of this Agreement, only members of the Union in good standing. The Employer shall be free to hire new employees who are not members of the Union, provided said non-members, whether part-time or full-time employees, shall be eligible for membership in the Union and shall make application within ten (10) days after employment and become members within thirty (30) days.

**2.02** The Employer agrees to provide each new employee at the time of employment with a form letter outlining to the employee his or her responsibility in regard to Union membership and outlining the provisions of Section 6.02 of this Agreement, and to provide the Union in writing with the name and address of each employee to whom they have presented the letter, along with the employee's date of hire. The Employer will have new employees sign the check-off and Union membership application upon successful completion of orientation. The Union shall bear the expense of printing the form, the contents of the letter to be such that it is acceptable to the Employer. The Employer further agrees to provide the Union once a month with a list containing names of all employees who have terminated their employment during the previous month.

### **Section 3 - DEDUCTION OF UNION DUES**

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**3.01** The Employer agrees to deduct from the wages of each employee, upon proper authorization from the employee affected, such initiation fees, Union dues, fines and assessments as are authorized by regular and proper vote of the membership of the Union. The Employer further agrees to automatically deduct Union dues from the wages of all new employees. The Union will supply an appropriate form to the Employer so those new employees, at the time of hire, will authorize Union dues deductions. This form will be applicable from the time the employee commences employment until such time as the Union submits an official dues checkoff to the Employer. The employee shall, within thirty (30) days after commencement of employment, provide the Employer with a signed authorization for such deductions. Monies deducted during any month shall be forwarded by the Employer to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union not later than the tenth (10th) day of the following month, accompanied by a written statement of the name and social insurance number of each employee for whom the deductions were made and the amount of each deduction. Dues checkoffs are to be submitted on a monthly or four-week basis showing amount deducted each week, for what purpose and the total amount deducted during the month or four-week period, as well as the Store number of each employee for whom the deductions were made. Union dues deducted by the Employer shall be shown on the employee's T4 slip.

It is the responsibility of the employee to maintain membership in good standing as outlined in the International Constitution and Local Union Policy.

### **Section 4 - CLERKS WORK CLAUSE**

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**4.01** With the exception of excluded personnel listed in Section 1 of this Agreement and salespersons or vendor representatives whose product is delivered directly to the store and Specialist personnel of the Employer all work in the handling and selling of merchandise in the retail stores of the Employer shall be performed only by employees of the bargaining unit who are members of UFCW Local 1518.

The Employer will not utilize this clause to erode the work of the bargaining unit.

### **Section 5 - HOURS OF WORK**

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**5.01** The Employer reserves the right to schedule hours of operation, employee hours of work, rest periods, meal periods and overtime work, subject to the provisions set out in this section.

**Basic Work Week:** The basic work week of a full-time employee shall be forty (40) hours per week consisting of five (5) eight (8) hour days.

Full-time employees shall receive forty (40) hours pay at straight-time rates and shall work four (4) days, thirty-two (32) hours, including work on the statutory holiday, in a week in which one (1) statutory holiday occurs; three (3) days, twenty-four (24) hours, including work on the statutory holiday, in a week in which two (2) statutory holidays occur.

Time worked in excess of forty (40) hours of actual work by part-time employees during a week in which a statutory holiday or statutory holidays occur shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half (1-1/2).

**5.02** Sunday shall be considered the first day of work for the basic workweek.

**5.03 Posting of Schedules:** A weekly work master schedule will be posted on Monday for the workweek beginning Sunday, two (2) weeks in advance. The Employer is required to make reasonable effort to verbally advise individual employees of the changes to the work schedule once it has been posted. The Employer will endeavour to schedule full-time employees' days off together where possible, subject to the operational needs of the store.

An employee's schedule may be changed without notice in the event of absence of other staff due to sickness or accident or in the event of emergencies, such as fire, flood, breakdown of machinery or other instances of *force majeure*. In all other cases, at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice of any change must be given or four (4) additional hours' pay given in lieu of notice. A student must be notified on the day before of any change to his or her schedule or be given an additional two (2) hours' pay if the schedule is changed for a school day and four (4) hours' pay if the schedule is changed for a non-school day.

Daily hours of work shall be consecutive with the exception of rest and meal periods. No split shifts shall be worked unless mutually agreed to in writing, by the Employee and the Employer. Employees shall not work longer than their scheduled work day unless requested to do so by the Employer, in which case additional hours will be paid at the applicable rate of pay.

**5.04 Statutory Holidays:** The following days shall be considered statutory holidays:

New Year's Day	Good Friday	Victoria Day	Canada Day
B.C. Day	Labour Day	Thanksgiving Day	Remembrance Day
Christmas Day	Boxing Day	Family Day	

and all other public holidays proclaimed by Federal, Provincial or Municipal governments, provided that all other major grocery stores close on any such holiday proclaimed and, further, that in the case of a statutory holiday proclaimed by a municipality, only those stores of the Employer in that municipality shall be affected by the requirements of this Section.

Employees required to work on a holiday shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times (1-1/2x) their regular hourly rate for each hour worked and employees shall receive four (4) hours' minimum pay at the overtime rate for whatever time worked.

**Part-time Employees:** All part-time employees who have been employed thirty (30) calendar day or more and have worked an average of at least thirty-two (32) hours or more per week on the four (4) weeks preceding the week in which the statutory holiday occurs, shall receive eight (8) hours' pay at their regular hourly rate for each holiday.

All part-time employees who have been employed thirty (30) calendar days or more and have worked an average of at least twenty (20) hours a week, but less than thirty-two (32) hours per week in the four (4) weeks preceding the week in which a Statutory Holiday occurs, shall receive six (6) hours' pay at their regular hourly rate for each holiday.

All part-time employees who have been employed thirty (30) calendar days or more, and have worked at least ten (10) hours a week, but less than twenty (20) hours per week in the four (4) weeks preceding the week in which a Statutory Holiday occurs, shall receive four (4) hours' pay at their regular hourly rate for each holiday.

All part-time employees who have worked less than ten (10) hours per week will receive Statutory Holiday pay as set out in the *Employment Standards Act*.

If an employee is eligible for pay for a statutory holiday while on Workers' Compensation or Weekly Indemnity (W.I.), the maximum amount of pay the employee will receive from such sources for any particular day shall not be more than one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's normal daily pay.

Time worked in excess of forty (40) hours of actual work by part-time employees during a week in which a statutory holiday or statutory holidays occur shall be paid at the rate of time and one half (1½).

By mutual agreement, statutory holidays may be scheduled in the week prior or the week following the week in which the statutory holiday occurs. Further, it is agreed re-scheduled statutory holidays will be scheduled with the employee's day off unless mutually agreed otherwise.

**Deemed Time Worked:** Paid vacations for full-time employees and statutory holidays for all employees shall be considered as time worked for all purposes of the Collective Agreement.

**5.05 Meal Periods and Rest Periods:** Employees' rest periods and meal periods shall be scheduled, depending on the length of their shift, as follows:

- Four (4) hours or more.....one (1) paid 15-minute rest period
- Six (6) hours or more .....two (2) paid 15-minute rest periods
- Seven (7) hours or more.....two (2) paid 15-minute rest periods and one (1) 30-minute unpaid meal period

An employee's meal period shall not commence earlier than three (3) hours nor later than five (5) hours after the start of an employee's shift. Rest periods shall not begin until one (1) hour after the commencement of an employee's shift or the end of a meal period.

Rest periods shall be taken without loss of pay to the employee.

**5.06 Overtime Pay:** All time worked in excess of the basic workweek, as defined in Sections 5.01 and 5.05 and hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a day shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half (1½) the regular rate. All hours worked in excess of ten (10) hours in a day and in excess of 48 hours in a regular workweek shall be paid at twice the regular rate. Compensating time off shall not be given in lieu of overtime pay. Employees shall be paid time and one half the regular rate for all hours worked after their fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) work day in a week.

It is agreed that no one will be paid more than one (1) overtime premium for any overtime hours worked.

When required to work overtime, an employee may decline if the employee has a valid reason. Such refusal shall be accepted provided there is another employee on the shift when overtime is required who is prepared to work the overtime and has the ability to perform the work required.

**5.07 Interval Between Shifts:** There shall be an interval of not less than ten (10) hours between shifts for all employees. An employee who is not allowed a ten (10) hour interval between shifts shall be paid at the rate of time and one half (1½) for time worked prior to the expiry of the ten (10) hour interval.

**5.08 Minimum Hours:** All employees shall be paid their regular hourly rate for each hour worked except where employed for less than four (4) consecutive hours per day, in which event they shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours pay. An employee who is called for work and upon reporting finds that his or her services are not required shall receive two (2) hours pay.

**5.09 Recording Hours of Work:** The Employer shall provide a sign-in form or an electronic time recording process to enable employees to record their hours of work for payroll purposes. Employees shall record their own time at the time they start and finish work and the time they commence and return from meal periods. . Employees who fail to record all time worked in the manner required by this subsection shall, upon complaint of the Union, be disciplined as follows:

- 1st violation
  - three (3) days' suspension without pay
- 2nd and subsequent violations
  - one (1) week suspension without pay

Suspensions shall be implemented within forty-five (45) days of notification by the Union unless a longer period is mutually agreed upon between the Union and the Employer or in the event that the requested suspension becomes subject to the grievance procedure.

Any such dispute shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration sections of this Agreement. Any employee terminated for the above reasons shall not be entitled to notice or pay in lieu of notice.

The Employer agrees to assume its full responsibility in seeing that all employees are compensated for all time worked.

**5.10 Work Loads:** If an employee believes the amount of work he or she is required to perform is excessive over what is required from the rest of the staff and it will result in an occupational accident or occupational injury to him or her, the question shall be referred to Section 15 of this Agreement.

## **Section 6 - CLASSIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES**

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**6.01 Credit for Previous Experience:** New employees shall be classified according to previous comparable experience in a unionized chain food store. New employees having previous comparable experience may be paid a lower scale than their experience calls for, but not less than the minimum rate established by this Agreement for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from

date of employment. Provided the employee's services are retained and his or her experience is accepted as comparable, then, after the thirty (30) day period he or she shall receive any difference between their assigned rate of pay and the rate for which his or her experience calls for. It is further agreed that the rate paid retroactively shall not apply to the first ten (10) working days.

**6.02** It shall be optional for the Employer to grant credit to those employees who are claiming previous experience if such employees have been out of the industry for two (2) years or more.

**6.03** In the event of any disagreement as to credit granted for previous experience, such disagreement shall be considered a grievance and the grievance procedure in this Agreement shall apply. However, if the Employer has:

- (a) provided the employee with the "New Employee" letter provided for in Section 2.02 of this Agreement not later than two (2) weeks from the date of employment, and
- (b) given the employee written notification showing credit granted for previous experience within the thirty (30) day period required by this Article; and
- (c) given the Union written notification showing credit granted for previous experience within the same period,

Then no consideration shall be given to any disagreement pertaining to credit for previous experience if presented later than sixty (60) days after the employee's date of employment.

#### **6.04 Assistant Department Manager**

To enhance the Employer's ability to develop supervisory staff, the Employer may create the position of Assistant Department Manager. The Assistant Department Manager shall: be filled by individuals hired or selected on the basis of their merit, qualifications, ability and seniority as determined by Management; shall be required to provide all relief for a Department Manager; and, when not relieving, shall receive hours equal to but not more than the senior employee in the Department.

The rate shall be one (\$1.00) per hour over the employee's regular rate, for hours worked

**6.05** An employee, other than an assistant department manager, relieving a department manager for more than two (2) full shifts shall be paid seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per hour for such relief work, in addition to the employee's present rate of pay.

### **Section 7 - WAGES**

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**7.01** The Employer agrees to pay all employees covered by the terms of this Agreement not less than the following schedule of wages during such time as this Agreement is in force, effective on dates as shown, provided that if an employee is receiving a wage rate in excess of the rates herein contained, such wage rate shall not be reduced by reason of the signing of this Agreement. There shall be a regular weekly or bi-weekly payday and each employee shall be provided with an itemized statement of earnings and deductions for the pay period covered.

All employees will be paid through direct deposit.

Payroll period beginning closest to January 1 of the years noted below:

HOURS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Start	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50
521	\$ 11.60	\$ 11.60	\$ 12.10	\$ 12.10	\$ 12.60	\$ 12.60
1041	\$ 11.75	\$ 11.75	\$ 12.20	\$ 12.20	\$ 12.70	\$ 12.70
1561	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90	\$ 12.30	\$ 12.30	\$ 12.80	\$ 12.80
<b>2081</b>	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.40	\$ 12.40	\$ 12.90	\$ 12.90
2601	\$ 12.25	\$ 12.25	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00
3121	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.50	\$ 12.75	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.10	\$ 13.10
3641	\$ 12.75	\$ 12.75	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.20	\$ 13.40
<b>4161</b>	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.25	\$ 13.25	\$ 13.30	\$ 13.60
4681	\$ 13.25	\$ 13.25	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.80
5201	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 13.75	\$ 13.75	\$ 13.75	\$ 14.00
5721	\$ 13.75	\$ 13.75	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.30
<b>6241</b>	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.60
6761	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.25	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.80
7281	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.50	\$ 14.75	\$ 14.75	\$ 14.75	\$ 15.00
7801	\$ 14.75	\$ 14.75	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.25
<b>8321</b>	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.50
8841	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.25	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.75
9361	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.50	\$ 15.75	\$ 15.75	\$ 15.75	\$ 16.00
9881	\$ 15.75	\$ 15.75	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.25
<b>10401</b>	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.50
10921	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.75
11441	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.50	\$ 16.75	\$ 16.75	\$ 16.75	\$ 17.00
11961	\$ 16.75	\$ 16.75	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.25
<b>12481</b>	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.50
13001	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.25	\$ 17.50	\$ 17.50	\$ 17.50	\$ 18.00
13521	\$ 17.50	\$ 17.50	\$ 17.75	\$ 17.75	\$ 17.75	\$ 18.20
14041	\$ 17.75	\$ 17.75	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.40
<b>14561</b>	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 18.25	\$ 18.25	\$ 18.25	\$ 18.60
15081	\$ 18.25	\$ 18.25	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.80
15601	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.50	\$ 18.75	\$ 18.75	\$ 18.75	\$ 19.00
16121	\$ 18.75	\$ 18.75	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.20
<b>16641</b>	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.50
17161	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.25	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.80
17681	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.50	\$ 19.75	\$ 19.75	\$ 19.75	\$ 20.00
18201	\$ 19.75	\$ 19.75	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.20
<b>18721</b>	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.25	\$ 20.25	\$ 20.25	\$ 20.50

## Café Worker

HOURS	Rate
Start	\$ 12.00
521	\$ 12.10
1041	\$ 12.20
1561	\$ 12.30
<b>2081</b>	\$ 12.40
2601	\$ 12.50
3121	\$ 12.75
3641	\$ 13.00
<b>4161</b>	\$ 13.25
4681	\$ 13.50
5201	\$ 13.75
5721	\$ 14.00

**7.02** Employees hired as delivery drivers shall not progress further than \$15 per hour should the employee decide to remain as a delivery driver. Once a delivery driver has achieved sufficient hours to progress beyond \$15 per hour on the wage scale, they shall have the option of transferring into another classification in the store in order to progress further up the wage scale.

**7.03 Jury Duty Pay:** A full-time employee summoned to Jury Duty or Witness Duty, where subpoenaed in a court of law, or where subpoenaed to an arbitration hearing or an LRB hearing shall be paid wages amounting to the difference paid them for Jury or Witness service and the amount they would have earned had they worked on such days. Employees on Jury or Witness Duty shall furnish the Employer with such statements of earnings as the courts may supply. This does not apply if the employee is summoned on his/her day(s) off.

Part-time employees, when appearing as a material witness on behalf of the Employer shall be rescheduled or paid for lost hours.

Employees shall return to work within a reasonable period of time. They shall not be required to report if less than two (2) hours of their normal shift remains to be worked. Total hours on Jury Duty or Witness Duty and actual work on the job in the store in one (1) day shall not exceed eight (8) hours for purposes of establishing the basic workday. Any time worked in the store in excess of the combined total of eight (8) hours shall be considered overtime and paid as such under the contract.

Once the work schedule has been posted, the schedule cannot be changed to circumvent this clause.

**7.04 Staff Meetings:** Staff meetings, whether in the store or off the premises, shall be considered as time worked and paid for accordingly, except meal meetings at which the attendance is voluntary.

**7.05 Cash Shortages:** No employee may be required to make up cash register shortages unless he or she is given the privilege of checking the money and daily receipts upon starting and completing

the work shift, and unless the employee has exclusive access to the cash register during the work shift and unless cash is balanced daily, except as specified below.

No employee may be required to make up register shortages when Management exercises the right to open the register during the employee's work shift, unless the register is opened in the presence of the employee and the employee is given the opportunity to verify all withdrawals and/or deposits.

No employee shall be held responsible for cash shortages unless he or she has exclusive access to his or her cash.

**7.06 Learning Prices and Codes:** Learning prices and codes shall be included in the employee's daily work schedule and shall be paid for in accordance with the terms of the Collective Agreement.

**Section 8 -VACATIONS**

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**8.01** The date for determining an employee's vacation entitlement in a calendar year shall be January 1 of that calendar year. Employees who have completed less than one (1) year of continuous service with the Employer as of January 1 shall have their vacation entitlement pro-rated for that calendar year. Employees with the corresponding continuous years of employment as of January 1 of the calendar year with the Employer as a full-time employee will be entitled to the following paid vacation:

Full-time employees with the corresponding continuous years of employment with the Employer will be entitled to the following paid vacation:

	<u>Vacation Time Off</u>	<u>Vacation Pay</u>
One (1) or more years	2 weeks	2 weeks
Three (3) or more years	3 weeks	3 weeks
Eight (8) or more years	4 weeks	4 weeks
Thirteen (13) or more years	5 weeks	5 weeks

The Employer will pay all part-time employees their vacation pay for the previous year by February 28 of each year.

Part-time employees will be entitled to the following vacation time off, without pay, and vacation pay according to corresponding continuous years of employment completed:

	<u>Vacation Time Off</u>	<u>Vacation Pay</u>
one (1) or more years	2 weeks	4%
three (3) or more years	3 weeks	6%
eight (8) or more years	4 weeks	8%
thirteen (13) or more years	5 weeks	10%

A part-time employee who becomes full-time will be credited the number of hours accumulated during the employee's length of service with the Employer as a part-time employee, provided there is no interruption of employment between the employee's part-time and full-time status. The total number of hours worked by the employee will be calculated into full-time hours to determine the employee's full-time service status for future vacation entitlements as outlined above.

The Employer agrees to provide vacation pay on a "total compensation" or normal week's pay, whichever is greater. Total compensation shall mean "all monies received directly from the Employer" (wages, overtime, bonuses, premiums, vacation pay, sick-leave-credit payments, and other items of similar nature).

All time lost (up to thirty-one (31) consecutive days) because of sickness, occupational or non-occupational accident, all time absent on paid full-time vacation, and paid statutory holidays, shall be considered as time worked for the purpose of determining the vacation allowance to which a full-time employee is entitled.

Vacation schedules, once approved by the Employer, shall not be changed except by mutual agreement between the employee and the Employer.

- 8.02** Vacation time off will be scheduled according to the employee's continuous years of employment with the Employer under the terms of this Collective Agreement. Employees must take the vacation time to which they are entitled and cannot receive vacation pay in lieu of vacation time off.
- 8.03** When a statutory holiday occurs during an employee's vacation, an extra day's vacation with pay shall be granted if the holiday is one which the employee would have received had the employee been working. Where an employee receives three (3) or more weeks' vacation with pay and a statutory holiday occurs during the employee's paid vacation, an extra day's pay may be given in lieu of an extra day's vacation with pay if, in the opinion of the Employer, an extra day's vacation with pay will interfere with vacation schedules or hamper operations.
- 8.04** Pregnancy Leave shall count for purposes of accumulating time towards vacation entitlement only (see Section 10.04).
- 8.05** Paid vacations for full-time employees and statutory holidays for all employees shall be considered time worked for all purposes of the Collective Agreement.
- 8.06** Employees whose employment is terminated or if they terminate and give two (2) weeks' notice in writing to the Employer, shall receive all earned vacation pay or applicable percentage of earnings, whichever is higher, less any paid vacation taken plus the applicable percentage of earnings for any period since the employee's last anniversary date and date of termination.

## **Section 9 - HEALTH AND WELFARE**

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- 9.01 Medical Services Plan / Sick Leave:** Upon completion of the probationary period, The Employer agrees to pay 100% of MSP premiums for all full-time employees and dependents. A short-term sick leave plan and MSP benefits will be provided by the Employer to employees who work thirty two (32) hours per week for thirteen (13) consecutive weeks following the completion of the probationary period. An employee must fail to meet the above hour requirement for a period of thirteen (13) consecutive weeks from the time he or she fails to meet it before he or she is disqualified. Paid hours for Statutory Holidays and vacation shall count towards qualification of this benefit.
- 9.02 Weekly Indemnity Benefit Plan:** All employees who are eligible for benefits under Section 9.01 above shall be eligible to participate in this plan. Weekly Indemnity Benefits shall be payable commencing on:

1. The first (1st) day of hospitalization due to non-occupational accident or sickness, or
2. The fourth (4th) day of absence due to sickness or non-occupational accident.

The benefit period shall be a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks.

Weekly Indemnity payments shall be in the amount of seventy percent (70%) of an employee's straight-time rate of pay. All matters of eligibility, coverage and benefits shall be as set out in the Plan and as determined by the carrier.

- 9.03 Return to Work After Illness:** After absence due to illness or injury, the employee must be returned to his or her job when capable of performing his or her duties.
- 9.04 Return to Work Program:** The Company will work on providing employees with a fair and dignified Return to Work Program.
- 9.05 Medical Reports:** The Employer agrees to pay the fee for medical reports required by the Employer for Sick Leave or Weekly Indemnity provisions to a maximum of fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- 9.06 Physical Examinations:** Where the Employer requires an employee to take a physical examination, the doctor's fee for such examination shall be paid by the Employer. Such examinations shall be taken during the employee's working hours without loss of pay to the employee, except for examinations, which take place prior to commencement of employment, and during the employee's first four (4) weeks of employment.
- 9.07 Maintenance of Benefits:** The Employer agrees to maintain the full cost of Health and Welfare premiums when an employee is absent on Weekly Indemnity or Workers' Compensation claims or on Sick Leave to a maximum of six (6) months.
- 9.08 Pension Plan:** The Employer agrees to participate in the UFCW Industry Pension Plan and Trust Fund.

The Employer shall make contributions to the Plan on the basis of the percentage of earnings, set forth below, of each participating employee. The percentage applicable shall be as follows:

<u>Effective Date is pay period following</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
<b>First Two Years Location is Open (beginning on day of opening)</b>	four (4%)
<b>Next Two Years</b>	five (5%)
<b>Fifth Year and After</b>	six (6%)

Pay period shall mean the weekly period from Sunday through Saturday used by the Employer for paying earnings to participating employees.

Earnings shall mean the total compensation paid to a participating employee and recorded as earnings (excluding taxable benefits) on the T-4 (or similar tax reporting form should this designation by Revenue Canada be changed in the future) provided to the participating employee each year, excluding any bonuses or incentives.

Contributions, along with a list of employees for whom they have been made and other relevant information, will be remitted by the Employer not later than twenty one (21) days after the close of each of the Employer's four (4) or five (5) week accounting periods.

## **Section 10 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

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**10.01 Leaves of Absence:** Except as otherwise indicated in the Collective Agreement, applications for leaves of absence without pay will be adjudicated on the basis of merit, compassion, length of service and the operational needs of the store. Leaves of absence shall not be unreasonably withheld.

- i) Employees who are granted a leave up to six (6) weeks shall accumulate seniority;
- ii) After four (4) years of continuous service and upon giving three (3) months' notice, all employees shall be entitled to an unpaid leave of absence of the following conditions:
  - (a) The leave of absence shall be for a maximum period of one (1) year.
  - (b) Employees who are granted leave under this provision shall have their seniority frozen for the duration of the approved leave and shall neither earn nor lose seniority. Employees on such Leave of Absence shall neither earn nor lose seniority. For example, an employee with a January 1, 2000 seniority date shall have their seniority date adjusted to January 1, 2001.
  - (c) Employees may return to work earlier than the scheduled end of the leave provided they give their Store Manager one (1) month notice of their early return to work date. Upon their return to work these employees will be scheduled in accordance to their revised seniority date (actual leave).
  - (d) While on this approved leave of absence an employee shall not take employment with any competitor in the food business. (Violation of this provision may result in termination, see Section 11.02.)
  - (e) Written application for a leave shall be made to the Store Manager. Written approval of a leave shall be provided to the Union and the employee involved.
  - (f) Seniority shall be the determining factor in scheduling leaves of absence.
  - (g) An employee who is on a leave of absence could be offered minimal part-time work with the Employer without seniority or rights to such work for the duration of the leave.
  - (h) The period of time off will not count towards time worked for vacation entitlement.

**10.02 Conflict of Interest:** It is agreed that the term "competitor" raised in Section 11.01 above shall mean any food and/or drug retail establishment. An employee working for a competitor as defined herein will be placed in a conflict of interest with their ongoing employment with the Employer.

An employee shall avoid any conflict with the interest of the Employer. A conflict of interest includes an obligation in a relationship with any person or organization, which competes or does

business with the Employer that, could affect the employee's judgment in fulfilling his or her responsibilities to the Employer or which could affect the Employer's business interests.

Violation of this provision may result in termination. Prior to termination, the Employer shall notify the employee of the infraction so the employee can rectify the problem.

**10.03 Funeral and Bereavement Leave:** In the event of death in the immediate family of an employee, the employee will be granted up to two (2) days leave of absence with pay plus one day to attend a funeral or service. The length of such absence shall be at the discretion of the Employer however any decision to extend beyond the times outlined in this section are unpaid and shall not exceed two (2) weeks in total. The term "immediate family" shall mean spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild or any relative living in the household of the employee.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the death is a case of spouse, father, mother or child, the employee shall be entitled to an additional two (2) days leave of absence with pay. It is understood that in the case of a part-time employee, the compensation shall be at the average hours worked during the preceding four (4) weeks.

Time off due to the death of a member of an employee's family must be taken at the time of the bereavement.

An employee's day off will not be altered to circumvent funeral leave benefits.

This leave may be extended, with the agreement of the Employer, by using vacation time or by requesting an unpaid LOA.

**10.04 Pregnancy Leave:**

- (1) An employee who is pregnant shall be given an unpaid leave of absence without loss of seniority or other privileges for a maximum of seventeen (17) weeks, up to eleven (11) weeks prior to the expected delivery date and at least six (6) weeks after the actual delivery date. The employee may choose to delay the commencement of her maternity leave, provided she is medically fit to perform the full range of duties of her position. This will not affect the employee's entitlement to pregnancy leave.
- (2) An employee is entitled to up to six (6) additional consecutive weeks of unpaid leave if, for reasons related to the birth or the termination of the pregnancy, she is unable to return to work when her leave ends under subsection (1).
- (3) All such requests must be submitted in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to their return to work date. The request must specify the length of the extension and the revised date the employee will be available to return to work. The length of the extension can be modified by mutual consent.
- (4) In addition to the pregnancy leave set out above, the attending physician certifying that the health of the mother or child may be in danger by the mother continuing to work may extend such leave prior to delivery.
- (5) Benefit entitlement for the above leaves shall be as required by the *Employment Standards Act*.

## **10.05 Parental Leave:**

- (1) An employee who requests parental leave under this Section is entitled to:
  - (a) for a birth mother who takes leave within one year of the birth of a child and in conjunction with pregnancy leave taken under Section 10.04 - up to thirty five (35) weeks of unpaid leave beginning immediately after the end of the leave taken under Section 10.04.
  - (b) for a birth mother who does not take a leave under Section 10.04 in relation to the birth of a child - up to thirty seven (37) weeks of unpaid leave beginning after the child's birth and within fifty two (52) weeks after that event.
  - (c) for a birth father - up to thirty seven (37) weeks of unpaid leave beginning after the child's birth and within fifty two (52) weeks of that event.
  - (d) for an adopting parent - up to thirty seven (37) weeks beginning within fifty-two (52) weeks after the child is placed with the parent.
- (2) If certified by a licensed medical practitioner that the child requires an additional period of parental care, the employee is entitled to up to five (5) additional weeks of unpaid leave, beginning immediately after the end of the leave taken under subsection (1) above.
- (3) The employee is required to give the Employer four (4) weeks' advance notice in writing of their intention to take a leave. The Employer may request this notice be accompanied by a medical practitioner's certificate or other evidence of the employee's entitlement to leave.
- (4) Benefit entitlement for these above leaves shall be as required in the *Employment Standards Act*.

## **Section 11 - SCHEDULING HOURS OF WORK**

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**11.01 Reduction and Increase of Hours:** For the purposes of this Article, there shall be three (3) classifications: General Clerk, Clerk Cashier, and Delivery Driver.

Preference in available hours of work in a store shall be given to senior employees in the same classification within the store, provided they are available and can perform the work, subject to Section 11.03 of this Section. It is understood that Delivery Driver duties may include picking orders for delivery.

It is understood that the employee shall assume his or her responsibility in notifying or in reporting any violation of the seniority Clause in the allocation of hours at the earliest possible time. Any monetary adjustment or compensation arising from incorrect scheduling shall not be paid retroactively for a period greater than two (2) weeks prior to the time the Grievance was first lodged.

The Employer will endeavour to maximize the number of hours scheduled for part-time employees in accordance with their seniority and the Collective Agreement, provided they are available and can perform work and provided they have not restricted their availability. The foregoing does not

imply an obligation to schedule more hours in any classification than the Employer has determined necessary.

**11.02 Scheduling of Overlapping and Abutting Shifts:** Where it can be shown that overlapping and abutting shifts have been scheduled to deny senior employees available hours, this shall be discussed between the parties. Where a disagreement arises under this Subsection and results in a Grievance, the parties will have two (2) weeks from the date the matter is brought to the attention of the Employer to correct any errors in scheduling before a claim for lost wages can be filed.

**11.03 Restriction of Availability:** A part-time employee who works less than the basic workweek and restricts his or her availability shall sign a form so advising the Employer. One (1) copy of the form is to be mailed to the Union by the Employer. Such employee shall forfeit their right to claim any hours in excess of the number of hours to which they have restricted themselves. When reductions in hours occur, the junior employee, whether or not he or she is of restricted status, shall be reduced first. If an employee wishes to end his or her restricted status, the employee shall so advise the Employer in writing. The employee's full seniority rights shall begin from the date he or she advises the Employer of his or her full availability. An employee shall not be entitled to fill out a form, as outlined above, more than once per year unless otherwise mutually agreed.

A full-time employee who reverts to part-time status at his or her own request shall be considered to have restricted his or her availability and the foregoing shall apply.

Employees shall not be permitted to restrict their availability below sixteen (16) hours per week except for health reasons supported by a letter from a doctor, or unless mutually agreed between the Employer and the employee.

The Employer will endeavour to schedule full eight (8) hour shifts.

## **Section 12 - NOTICE OR PAY IN LIEU OF NOTICE**

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**12.01** Commencing after four (4) months from date of employment, full-time employees when terminated by the Employer, unless guilty of rank insubordination, dishonesty, drunkenness, obvious disloyalty, other just cause or absence without Leave unless having a bona fide reason for such absence, shall receive notice in writing or pay in lieu of notice as follows:

- After four (4) months and up to two (2) years of continuous service
  - one (1) week's notice in writing or one (1) week's wages in lieu thereof.
- From two (2) years up to five (5) years' continuous service
  - two (2) weeks' notice in writing or two (2) weeks' wages in lieu thereof.
- From five (5) years up to eight (8) years' continuous service
  - three (3) weeks' notice in writing or three (3) weeks' wages in lieu thereof.
- More than eight (8) years' continuous service
  - four (4) weeks' notice in writing or four (4) weeks' wages in lieu thereof.

**12.02** This Section shall not invalidate an employee's right to process his or her termination and to be reinstated as set out in Section 17, providing the employee has been employed by the Employer four (4) calendar months or more.

- 12.03** The Employer agrees to give full-time employees one (1) week's notice in writing prior to layoff. Such notice shall not be required in cases of layoffs due to fire, flood or other cases of *force majeure*.
- 12.04** Full-time employees reduced to part-time who terminate or are terminated within three (3) months of the date of their reduction to part-time shall be given whatever pay in lieu of notice they were entitled to immediately prior to the date of their reduction to part-time, unless terminated for and guilty of rank insubordination, dishonesty, drunkenness, obvious disloyalty or absence without Leave except where the employee has a bona fide reason for such absence.
- 12.05** A copy of notice of dismissal or layoff of full-time employees who have been employed more than four (4) calendar months shall be forwarded to the Union office at the date of giving such notice to the employee concerned.
- 12.06** Where the Employer intends to close a store, the Employer shall comply with Section 54 of the *Labour Relations Code*, and where applicable, with Section 64 of the *Employment Standards Act*.

### **Section 13 - SENIORITY**

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- 13.01** Seniority for employees shall mean length of continuous service within the respective classification with this Employer in British Columbia. Paid time off will be considered as hours worked. For clarification, continuous service shall include all leaves of absence from work pursuant to the Collective Agreement (i.e., vacations, accident, illness, and all approved leaves of absence).

Seniority lists of all employees shall be forwarded to the Union office twice per year.

The Employer agrees to forward an annual list of all employees' names and addresses to the Union office in addition to seniority lists, once per year.

Seniority will be lost if an employee:

- Voluntarily leaves the employ of the Employer; or
- Is discharged; or
- Is absent without approved leave for a period of more than three (3) working days; or
- Fails to report to work within three (3) working days of being recalled from a layoff as per Section 14.02 below.

The first seniority list for each (new) store will be created thirty (30) days after that store's opening date and will be updated and thereafter will be updated and posted as described above.

- 13.02 Layoff and Recall:** Seniority as defined in Section 13.01 above, shall govern in cases of layoffs and recall, provided the employee has the ability to perform the work required. Where required by the Employer, Assistant department supervisors are exempt from the layoff provisions of this Section.

Employees laid off in accordance with the above provisions shall be recalled to work in order of length of service with the Employer, provided no more than six (6) months has elapsed since the last day worked by the employee, for employees with one (1) year or more of service, no more than twelve (12) months has elapsed since the last day worked by the employee.

If an employee, when contacted, for proper and sufficient reason is not immediately available to commence work, the next employee on the list can be hired temporarily. If the contacted employee cannot report for work until three (3) working days later, the employee shall exchange seniority with the next employee on the list who is immediately available for employment, until the employee is recalled, at which time the employee shall resume their original seniority status. If the employee does not report in one (1) calendar week from date of recall without proper or sufficient reason, the employee shall be dropped from the seniority list.

The employee shall keep the Employer informed of their current address and telephone number. If the Employer is unable to contact the employee within five (5) working days, or if the employee is contacted and refuses the employment without proper and sufficient reason by the end of the five (5) day period, the employee will be dropped from the seniority list.

Employees rehired in accordance with this Section shall retain their previous length of service for the purposes of this Section and Section 13.

## **Section 14 - UNION'S RECOGNITION OF MANAGEMENT'S RIGHTS**

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**14.01** The Union agrees that the management of the company, including the right to plan, direct and control the Store operations, the direction of the working force and the termination of employees for just or proper cause, are the sole rights and functions of the Employer. During the first four (4) calendar months of employment, each new employee shall be on probation and will receive a written evaluation within three (3) months of employment.

**14.02** Employees who have restricted their availability or restrict their availability any time during the first 4 months, shall have their probationary period extended by two (2) months and any employee who is on an absence due to medical reasons by the length of the medical absence. The decision whether to retain or not to retain the employee's services shall be the sole right of the Employer and any termination occurring during that period shall not be subject to Sections 15 and 16 of this Agreement. It is agreed that this paragraph will not apply if it can be shown that an employee has been terminated for any lawful Union activity, in accordance with Section 19.08.

**14.03** Those matters requiring judgment as to competency of employees are also agreed to be the sole right and function of management, subject however, to discharge of employees on grounds of alleged incompetence being processed under Sections 15 and 16 of this Collective Agreement, providing that such employees have been employed by the Employer beyond the probationary period outlined above. The Parties agree that the foregoing enumeration of management's rights shall not be deemed to exclude other recognized functions of management not specifically covered in this Agreement. The Employer, therefore, retains all rights not otherwise specifically covered in this Agreement.

**14.04** The exercise of the foregoing shall not alter any of the specific provisions of this Agreement.

## **Section 15 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

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**15.01** Any complaint, disagreement or difference of opinion between the parties hereto concerning the interpretation, application, operation or any alleged violation of the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be considered a grievance.

- 15.02** Grievances shall be submitted within 30 days of the event giving rise to the grievance and must be presented in writing and shall clearly set forth the grievance and the contentions of the aggrieved party, following which the Union representative or representatives and the Employer representative or representatives shall meet and in good faith shall earnestly endeavor to settle the grievance submitted. If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached or if the party on whom the grievance has been served fails to meet the other party within fourteen (14) days of receiving the written grievance, either party may, by written notice served upon the other, require submission of the grievance to a Board of Arbitration, such Board to be established in the manner provided in Section 18 of this Agreement.
- 15.03** Grievances involving the dismissal or layoff of an employee must be submitted to the Employer within ten (10) working days from the date of dismissal or layoff.
- 15.04** Any employee alleging wrongful dismissal may place his allegation before the Union representative and, if the Union representative considers that the objection of the employee has merit, the dismissal shall become a grievance and be subject to the grievance procedure as established by this Agreement.
- 15.05** Employer agrees to reply in writing as to the disposition of all grievances submitted by the Union.

## **Section 16 - ARBITRATION**

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- 16.01** The Board of Arbitration shall be composed of a single arbitrator. (The parties may, by mutual consent, agree upon a three (3) person board of arbitration.
- 16.02** Within thirty (30) days of appointment, the Arbitrator shall hear the matter in dispute and shall render a decision within fourteen (14) days of completing the hearing. It is understood and agreed that the time limits as set forth herein may be altered by mutual agreement between the Employer and the Union.
- 16.03** Grievances submitted to the Arbitrator shall be in writing and shall clearly specify the nature of the issue.
- 16.04** In reaching its decision, the Arbitrator shall be governed by the provisions of this Agreement. The Arbitrator shall not be vested with the power to change, modify or alter this Agreement in any of its parts, but may, however, interpret its provisions.
- 16.05** The findings and decision of the Arbitrator shall be binding and enforceable on the parties.
- 16.06** **Expedited Arbitration:** Expedited Arbitration may be proposed by the Union or the Employer within forty-five (45) days after the grievance has been filed. Within seven (7) days of referral to Expedited Arbitration, either party must respond as to their decision to proceed to Expedited Arbitration or Arbitration under Section 16.01.
- 16.07** **Troubleshooter**  
Brian Foley, Mark Brown, Julie Nichols or any other individual agreed by the parties, shall be scheduled on a rotating basis to conduct expedited hearings on the following basis:

- a) Either party may refer grievances to this process upon providing the other party with three (3) weeks notice of a grievance being referred. Both parties must agree before a grievance is placed on the troubleshooter agenda.
- b) Only grievances where the parties have shared all relevant information regarding the grievance and all reliance documents and facts have been exchanged shall be referred. The parties agree that disclosure of information and documents will take place in a timely manner.
- c) New evidence, including facts or documents, may be introduced after the referral is made only where disclosure of this new evidence was not possible prior to the referral. In such cases, the party that is introducing the new evidence shall provide immediate disclosure to the other party. Upon request of the party in receipt of this new evidence, the process may be adjourned to allow a fair opportunity for analysis and reply.
- d) Decisions of the troubleshooter shall be in writing but shall be without prejudice, non-precedent setting and shall be publicized.
- e) Legal counsel shall not be used by either party.
- f) The parties shall develop other procedures or guidelines as necessary.

## **Section 17 - MISCELLANEOUS**

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**17.01 Union Decal:** The Employer agrees to display the official Union decal of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union in a location where it can be seen by customers.

**17.02 Wearing Apparel:** The Employer shall make available a smock or apron to each employee. Employees are required to supply their own safety footwear.

The Employer may develop a dress standard for employees, including hairnets and hats. The dress standard will include personal appearance standards, as well as, style and colour of pants and shirts.

The Company will post a policy on Wearing Apparel, dress code and protective clothing following these principles:

1. The Company will provide and launder any supplied aprons or smocks as required.
2. The Company will provide uniforms as required but will only launder uniforms for Bakery Clerks and Meat Cutters.
3. Should an employee receive a coverall, the employee will be responsible for laundering.

**17.03 Tools and Equipment:** All tools and equipment which are required to be used by the employees shall be supplied and kept in repair by the Employer at no cost to the employee. These items must be kept on the premises.

**17.04 Charitable Donations:** Employee donations to charity funds shall be on a strictly voluntary basis

- 17.05 Time Off to Vote:** The Employer agrees that it will fully comply with any law requiring that employees be given time off to vote.
- 17.06 Polygraph Tests:** The Employer agrees that polygraph or similar lie detector tests will not be used.
- 17.07 Information:** If the Union requires information regarding accumulated hours of work for the purpose of establishing the pay rate of an employee, the Employer agrees to co-operate to supply such information back to a period of two (2) years or such longer time as may be required to establish his or her proper rate of pay.

In any grievance regarding hours worked by an employee and the amount paid to an employee, the Employer shall promptly supply such information in respect to the two (2) pay periods immediately prior to the request. If information for a longer period is required, the normal process of the grievance procedure shall apply.

The Union shall not use the foregoing provision to request information that does not pertain to a specific grievance of an employee.

- 17.08 Intimidation:** No employee shall be discharged or discriminated against for any lawful Union activity, or for serving on a Union committee outside of business hours, or for reporting to the Union the violation of any provision of this Agreement.

If an employee walks off the job and alleges management has deliberately coerced or intimidated him or her into doing so, the matter shall be considered under the grievance procedure and, if such allegations are proved to be true, then the employee shall be considered not to have resigned. Such grievances must be filed no later than five (5) days after the incident that gave rise to the situation.

This is not to be construed to restrict management personnel from reprimanding an employee as required to maintain the proper operation of the Store.

- 17.09 Picket Lines:** The Employer agrees that in the event of a legal picket line of another trade Union being in existence at any of the Employer's Stores covered by this Agreement, the Employer will in no way require or force members to report to work behind such a picket line. Nor will the Employer discipline or in any way discriminate against an employee who refuses to report to work while a legal picket line exists at his or her place of work.

- 17.10 Employee's Personnel File:** A copy of formal discipline report to be entered on an employee's file will be given to the employee. The employee will be required to sign management's copy. Such signature will indicate receipt of formal reprimand only. Subject to giving the Employer advance notice, employees shall have access to their personnel file.

- 17.11 Discipline Interviews:** Where an employee attends an interview with management for the purpose of receiving a formal discipline report or for a security interview, the employee shall have the right to a witness of his or her choice. If during any other private corrective interview with management it is determined that there will be a discipline report on the employee's record or the employee feels there is a violation of Section 17.09, the interview may be temporarily suspended so that the employee may call in a witness of his or her choice. Any witness used by the employee in the above situations will be another employee working in the Store at the time the interview is being held. It is understood the witness is an observer and not a participant.

**17.12 Harassment and Discrimination:** Both the Employer and the Union endorse the principles outlined under the B.C. *Human Rights Code*.

The Employer and the Union recognize the rights of employees to work in an environment free from harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. Where an employee alleges that harassment or discrimination has occurred on the job the employee shall have the right to grieve under the Collective Agreement. Where the Employer or the Union has received an allegation of harassment or discrimination, it will be investigated on a priority basis in accordance with this joint commitment.

**17.13 Bulletin Boards:** Bulletin boards will be supplied by the Union and will be placed in the store as mutually agreed. It is understood that these bulletin boards are the property of the Union and shall be for their exclusive use.

A person so authorized by the Union may post bulletins authorized by the Union.

Any other bulletins may only be posted by mutual agreement between the Union and designated Management

**17.14 Lockers:** The Employer shall provide secure lockers for use of each store employee during their shift, providing such space is available.

## **Section 18 - HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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**18.01 Health and Safety Committee:** The Employer agrees to maintain a Health and Safety Committee in each store. The Committee shall function in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Board Health and Safety Regulations.

A member of the bargaining unit shall be elected by Bargaining Unit members in the store or shall be appointed by the Union to the Health and Safety Committee.

**18.02** The Employer has the primary responsibility for ensuring that safe conditions prevail within the workplace, to take appropriate and effective measures, both preventive and corrective, to protect the health and safety of employees.

This will include, but is not limited to, providing the Union with the details of the Employer's Health & Safety Program. The Union will be provided with applicable incident reports and recommendations flowing from any incident.

All safety clothing and protective equipment (excluding safety footwear) required for the protection of employees, or as required by the Employer, or as per WCB orders on the Employer, shall be provided for and maintained by the Employer. The Employer will provide a selection of rubber safety boots for use by employees.

## **Section 19 - TIME OFF FOR UNION BUSINESS - UNION REPRESENTATION**

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**19.01** The Employer agrees that employees chosen to attend to Union business in connection with conventions, conferences, seminars or Union negotiations shall be given time off up to seven (7) days according to the following formula:

- (a) Not more than one (1) employee from any one Store.

The Union shall notify the Employer at least two (2) weeks in advance of the commencement of all such leaves of absence.

**19.02** Upon at least two (2) weeks' notice, the Employer shall grant a leave of absence, for purposes of Union business, to one (1) employee on the following basis:

- (a) Up to six (6) months' leave of absence without review and a further six (6) months by mutual agreement.

**19.03 Provincial Conferences:** In the event the Union should call a Provincial Conference, time off for Union business shall be granted according to the following formula:

- (a) One (1) employee from each Store of the Employer shall be granted time off.
- (b) Fifty (50) or more employees in the store – two (2) employees shall be granted time off.

The Employer shall be given at least three (3) weeks' notice of such conference.

**19.04** The Employer will bill the Union and the Union will reimburse the Employer for wages and benefits paid to the employee during leaves set out in 21.01, 21.02 and 21.03.

**19.05 Visits of Union Representatives:** Duly authorized representatives of the Union shall be entitled to visit the Store for the purpose of observing working conditions, interviewing members and unsigned employees and to ensure that the terms of the Collective Agreement are being implemented.

The interview of an employee by a Union Representative shall be permitted after notifying the Store Manager, or whoever is in charge, and shall be:

- (a) Carried on in a place in the store designated by Management;
- (b) Held whenever possible during the lunch period; however, if this not practical;
- (b) During regular working hours. Time taken for such an interview in excess of five (5) minutes shall not be on Employer time, unless with the approval of Management;
- (c) Held at such times as will not interfere with service to the public;

Union Representatives shall be permitted to check employee time records including work schedules.

**19.06 Shop Stewards Recognition:** It is recognized that shop stewards may be elected or appointed by the Union from time to time and the Employer will be kept informed by the Union of such appointments or elections.

The Employer agrees to recognize shop stewards and alternate shop stewards for the purposes of overseeing the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement being implemented and for the purposes of presenting complaints and grievances to the designated management of the store.

The Employer agrees to recognize Shop Stewards and alternate Shop Stewards in the Store. Shop Stewards may introduce new members to the Union on their own time to present membership cards for signature.

The Shop Steward and, in the absence of the Shop Steward, another member of the Bargaining Unit of the employee's choice shall be present when a member of the Bargaining Unit:

- (i) Is given a reprimand which is to be entered on the employee's personnel file.
- (ii) Is suspended or discharged.

**19.07** It is agreed that Joint Labour Management meetings will be held on a regular basis, at least once per quarter, involving an equal number of management and employee representatives. The purpose of these meetings is to promote a harmonious relationship between management and employees at the store.

## **Section 20 - EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL**

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**20.01** This Agreement shall be for the period from and including **January 1, 2014** to and including **December 31, 2023** and from year to year thereafter, subject to the right of either Party to the Agreement, within four (4) months immediately preceding **December 31, 2023** or any subsequent anniversary date thereafter to:

- (a) Terminate this Agreement, in writing, effective **December 31, 2023** or any subsequent anniversary thereof,
- (b) Require the other party to this Agreement, in writing, to commence collective bargaining to conclude a revision or renewal of this Agreement.

Should either party give notice pursuant to (b) above, this Agreement shall thereafter continue in full force and effect and neither Party shall make any change in the terms of the said Agreement, or increase or decrease the rate of pay of any employee for whom collective bargaining is being conducted, or alter any other term or condition of employment until:

- (i) The Union gives notice of strike in compliance with the *Labour Relations Code* of British Columbia, or
- (ii) The Employer gives notice of lockout in compliance with the *Labour Relations Code* of British Columbia.

The operation of Section 50 (2) and 50 (3) of the *Labour Relations Code* of British Columbia is hereby excluded.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

For the Union

For the Employer

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Wm. (Kim) Balmer  
Executive Assistant to the President/Director  
UFCW Local 1518

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### **Letter of Understanding #1 - Night Stocking**

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In the event that night stocking becomes necessary, the Parties shall meet to discuss its implementation. If night stocking is implemented, one employee on the night stocking shift shall be designated as Lead Hand and shall be paid a premium of fifty cents (\$0.50) per hour in addition to their regular rate of pay.

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### **Letter of Understanding #2 - New Departments**

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From time to time, the Employer may establish new departments according to the following criteria:

1. a new group of products or commodities are to be sold or services offered;
2. the preexisting mix of products or commodities is substantially altered to the extent that merchandising and staff requirements are substantially altered.

When a new department is established, the Department Manager for that Department will be added to the exclusions under Article 1.

When a new department is established, the parties will discuss whether a new classification should be created, and whether the maximum wage rate for that new classification should be set at a different level than cashiers and general clerks.

Where the parties do not reach agreement, the dispute will be subject to mediation/arbitration on an expedited basis.

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### **Letter of Understanding #3 – Start-up Agreement**

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In recognition that this is a start-up Agreement, both parties agree that upon request from either the Employer or the Union that both parties shall meet and resolve any and all outstanding problems in relation to the start-up Agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties will meet within (3) three months of opening to discuss the start up and resolve any issues.

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### **Letter of Understanding #4 – Benefits**

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The Employer agrees to investigate whether long term disability benefit coverage can be substituted for W.I. coverage, on a cost neutral basis. The Employer will report its finding to the Union, and the parties may mutually agree to switch the coverage from W.I. to long term disability.

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### **Letter of Understanding #5 – Credit for Previous Experience, Section 6.01**

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The employer may opt to pay an employee a rate of pay over and above that to which they are otherwise entitled to under this provision. In those cases, the employee shall receive credit for 50% of the hours which coincides with the rate they are paid, requiring the employee to complete the remaining hours before advancing to the next wage rate on the wage scale. The employer shall meet and discuss with the union the implementation of the above

## **Letter of Understanding #6 – 2019 Re-opener**

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The Union and the Employer agree immediately after September 30, 2019 the parties shall engage in collective bargaining on monetary and non-monetary issues to revise and/or renew the terms of this Collective Agreement.

If after collective bargaining the Union and the Employer are unable to conclude a settlement of all bargaining demands, either party may refer the disputed items for resolution in a final and binding settlement to a sole arbitrator.

The arbitrator shall have the power to amend this Collective Agreement, except for Section 22 and the arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding.

For both monetary and non-monetary issues, the arbitrator will be guided by settlements negotiated by major retailers in the food industry. Adjustments made will preserve the current spread between this Collective Agreement and the major and other retailers in the BC food industry.

The parties shall make every effort to agree to an Arbitrator. If agreement cannot be reached on an arbitrator, then either party may request the BC Labour Relations Board to appoint an arbitrator.

Non-monetary issues shall be referred to the arbitrator on a final offer selection basis. Monetary issues shall be referred on a binding arbitration basis.

## **Letter of Understanding #7 – Minimum Wage**

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The parties agree that should the minimum wage in the province of British Columbia increase during the term of this Agreement, the rates will be adjusted so as to ensure there is a minimum forty cents (\$0.40) differential between any rate in effect at the time of the increase in minimum wage and the minimum wage for the province.

## INDEX

### A

Arbitration .....	5
Arbitration .....	18
Assistant Department Supervisors .....	6

### B

Bargaining Agency .....	1
Basic Work Week .....	2
Board Of Arbitration .....	18
Bulletin Boards .....	21

### C

Cash Shortages .....	8
Charitable Donations .....	19
Clerks Work Clause .....	2
Conflict Of Interest .....	12
Credit For Previous Experience .....	5, 25

### D

Deemed Time Worked .....	4
Discipline Interview .....	20
Discrimination .....	21

### E

Expedited Arbitration .....	18
Expiration And Renewal .....	23

### F

Funeral Leave .....	13
---------------------	----

### G

Grievance Procedure .....	17
Grievances .....	18

### H

Harassment .....	21
Health And Safety Committee .....	21
Health And Welfare .....	10
Hours Of Work .....	2

### I

Interval Between Shifts .....	5
Intimidation .....	20

### J

Joint Labour Management Meetings .....	23
Jury Duty .....	8

### L

Layoff And Recall .....	16
Learning Prices And Codes .....	9

Leaves Of Absence .....	12
Lockers .....	21

### M

Maintenance Of Benefits .....	11
Management's Rights .....	17
Maternity Leave .....	<i>See</i> Pregnancy Leave
Meal Periods .....	4
Medical Reports .....	11
Medical Services Plan .....	10
Minimum Hours .....	5
Minimum Wage .....	26

### N

New Departments .....	25
Night Stocking .....	25
Notice Or Pay In Lieu Of Notice .....	15

### O

Overtime Pay .....	4
--------------------	---

### P

Parental Leave .....	14
Pension Plan .....	11
Personnel File .....	20
Physical Examinations .....	11
Picket Lines .....	20
Polygraph Tests .....	20
Posting Of Schedules .....	3
Pregnancy Leave .....	13
Provincial Conference .....	22

### R

Recording Hours Of Work .....	5
Re-Opener, 2017 .....	26
Rest Periods .....	4
Return To Work After Illness .....	11
Return To Work Program .....	11

### S

Scheduling Hours Of Work .....	14
Seniority .....	16
Seniority Lists .....	16
Shop Stewards .....	22
Shop Stewards Recognition .....	22
Sick Leave .....	10
Single Arbitrator .....	18
Staff Meetings .....	8
Start-Up Agreement .....	25
Statutory Holidays .....	3
Store Manager .....	12

***T***

Time Off To Vote .....20  
Tools And Equipment.....19  
Transfers .....25  
Troubleshooter.....18

***U***

Union Business .....21  
Union Decal.....19  
Union Dues .....2  
Union Shop .....1

***V***

Vacation Entitlement .....10  
Vacation Pay.....9  
Vacations .....9  
Visits Of Union Representatives .....22

***W***

Wearing Apparel.....19  
Weekly Indemnity Benefit Plan.....10  
Witness Duty .....8  
Work Loads .....5