



MVT Canadian Bus, Inc.

October 22, 2009

For immediate distribution

MVT Canadian Bus responds to strike notice

HandyDART will ensure customers receive essential services

Vancouver – MVT Canadian Bus (MVT), Metro Vancouver’s HandyDART service provider, was notified by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) on October 22, 2009 that they have issued a 72-hour strike notice and that they will be able to strike any time after October 25, 2009.

“We are very disappointed by the ATU’s decision to serve a strike notice which will undoubtedly inconvenience customers who rely on our service as their only means of transportation. MVT will do everything we can to take care of customers and continue to provide as many services as we are able,” said John Siragusa, vice president of Operations.

Last week, the Labour Relations Board ruled that in the event of a strike by the ATU, HandyDART trips for renal dialysis and cancer patients are essential services and must be provided.

“MVT wants to resume full service for our customers as soon as possible. From day one our goal has been to reach a fair and reasonable collective agreement while avoiding potential service disruptions for customers,” said Siragusa.

“In the best interest of our employees and customers, today we have presented a best and final offer which clearly shows MVT’s commitment to reaching an agreement,” he added.

HandyDART customers are encouraged to visit www.mvtcanada.com or call 604-575-6600 for up-to-date information on service levels.

MVT and ATU have been negotiating since December 2008 and have met over 30 times. Most recently, the parties met with a negotiator and on September 30, 2009 the ATU walked away from negotiations, this was the second time in two weeks that they ended talks. Negotiations were set to resume on Tuesday October 27, 2009.

MVT’s HandyDART service provides transportation to customers who are unable to use public transit without assistance, including many seniors, the seriously ill and persons with cognitive or physical disabilities. HandyDART is the only means of transportation for many of its customers.

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Background

- MVT began HandyDART operation in Metro Vancouver on January 1, 2009 and hired over 99 percent of the 500 existing HandyDART employees. At this time, employees became members of ATU and MVT gave wage parity to all HandyDART drivers which increased wages by up to 16 per cent for 60 percent of the drivers.
- HandyDART employees were previously represented by three unions, five collective agreements and seven separate providers.
- MVT has also delivered significant improvements to the accessibility and service for customers. Customers now enjoy seamless service across Metro Vancouver’s municipalities, better on-time performance and increased trips.

	Prior to MVT	MVT’s best and final offer	ATU’s formal demand
Driver hourly wage	\$17.47 to \$20.25 Average = \$18.86	\$21.00 upon ratification \$21.25 effective January 1, 2010	\$25.35
Percentage increase in hourly wage	n/a	3.7% to 22%	28% to 44%
Guaranteed hours of pay	7.5 to 8 hrs per day	7.5 hrs	7.5 hrs
Vacation days	15 to 35 days, depending on years of service	15 to 35 days, depending on years of service	15 to 35 days, depending on years of service
Medical Service Plan	100% paid by employer	100% paid by MVT	100% paid by MVT
Extended Health	100% paid by employer	100% paid by employer	100% paid by employer
Pension Plan	<i>Mixed</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of employees Municipal Pension Plan • 40% of employees RRSP 	<i>100% employees self-directed RRSP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% paid by employer • If employee matches, an additional 2% to be paid by the employer for a total of 7% 	<i>100% employees Municipal Pension Plan</i>
Employee Assistance Plan	100% paid by employer	100% paid by MVT	100% paid by MVT

MVT Canadian Bus is the Canadian subsidiary of MV Transportation Inc., the largest provider of specialized transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities in the United States.

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