

Postal union strike action may come on Aug. 25

Continued from page 1

The union and Canada Post could agree to extend that time period and continue negotiations.

If Canada Post refuses to an extension, the union said it could be forced to pull the trigger on strike action.

We may have no other choice than to issue a 72-hour notice of strike action on or before August 25, the union warned in an online

bulletin to workers and the public.

The union could also hold another strike vote. However, that is a costly proposition for a bargaining unit that represents some 50,000 postal workers across the country.

We're going to be making some decisions in the coming days about how we move forward, said Palecek.

He insisted the union wants to reach a negotiated settlement and

avoid any service disruption.

The union suggested Canada Post is forcing workers into a corner.

It's pretty clear that management has been employing a strategy and really a consistent pattern of stalling things at the table, Palecek said. They set up these (bargaining process) timelines and now they're trying to use them to their advantage.

Meanwhile, an arbitrator ruled Monday in favour of Canada Post when he accepted the corporation's final offer to the association representing postmasters and assistants in rural post offices across Canada.

The new four-year agreement with the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) includes a defined contribution pension plan for new employees,

changes to entry-level wages, an increase in employee contributions for post-retirement benefits, and modest wage increases.

Reducing future costs is necessary to respond to the changing needs of Canadians for postal service while respecting Canada Post's mandate to be financially self-sustainable, the corporation said in a news release issued after the arbitration decision.

Summer

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