



Image by Francisco Anzola, FlickrR



Teamsters Local 213 members on the picket line at Ocean Concrete on Vancouver's Granville Island.

“But the real win is the language on securing work and scheduling of work and contracting out.”

yards. But we proved they were using all of them as if they were one company. So we won.”

Adding to the dispute was pressure from industry sources complaining about the shortage of concrete delaying many projects, although many sectors of the industry were supportive of the Teamsters Local 213 members.

Capozzi says it’s unfortunate, albeit inevitable, that the dispute created the concrete shortage but insists boss intransigence and insistence on imposing such unsafe conditions on the workers was the cause. That intransigence has both Smith and Capozzi speculating the significant, but not overwhelming, support for the new deal.

“The way we’ve been treated over the last few years has created a sense of frustration that’s been brought to the bargaining table,” Capozzi said. Smith adds, “there’s still concern about what the company may try to do with contracting work to the subsidiaries (Rempel, Ocean and Allied),” although



the union’s victory in the injunction case has stopped this practice. “There’ll be a lot less intermingling because of this.”

Both say the main force behind getting through the strike and getting an overall satisfactory contract was the solidarity of the members at all three firms. “The crews held it together really well,” Smith said. 🇺🇸

