



Molson workers on strike (updated 12:45 p.m.)

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No new contract talks are scheduled, and the beer supply likely won't be affected.

The legal strike began at 12:01 a.m. after the 102 hourly workers, who Molson Coors said earn between \$29 and \$34 an hour, rejected a new three-year contract that would give them small annual raises but offer new staff only \$22 an hour. The contract would also download some of the pension costs in a defined contribution by new workers, and cut three sick days from all employees, each a member of Canadian Auto Workers local 284.

The offer puts all the (pension) onus on the employee. It's like comparing a Cadillac to an entry-level car, CAW spokesperson Todd Romanow said of the contract offer.

The members just aren't prepared to sell out the workers of the future.

The new offer puts Molson wages at par with other employers, said Molson spokesman Ferg Devins.

The Edmonton plant supplies the bottled beer for Western Canada. Canned beer supplies won't be affected by the strike, and plants in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal will boost bottle production if local stockpiles run low, Devins said, leaving it up to the union to come back to the table.

The ball's really in their court, said Devins, a 23-year Molson veteran.

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