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A18 Saturday, June 6, 1992 THE TORONTO STAR

Star to reply today to new union proposal

Talks are continuing between The Star and its 2,250 unionized employees with management expected to reply by noon today to a labor offer tabled Thursday morning.

"We're studying the proposals," Fred Ross, The Star's communications director, said yesterday.

Union negotiators, in a written bulletin, described bargaining as "extremely slow."

A proposal tabled by the company Wednesday called for a three-year pact with no wage increase in the first year and 2 per cent gains in each of the following years. Pension improvements

Low-income residents targeted in plan to deliver produce

Low-income people across Metro will soon be able to buy fresh fruits, vegetables and other farm products at reduced prices from a travelling food truck that will visit their neighborhood once a week.

The Field to Table project, which begins June 15, was announced yesterday by Toronto Mayor June Rowlands and Rev. Nan Hudson of South Parkdale's Shalom House.

The project is aimed at helping people who can't afford good-quality fruits and vegetables and those unable to get to a large grocery store.

Farmers and wholesalers will provide produce at discounted prices and a refrigerated truck will stop at about 20 Metro locations, including Metro Toronto Housing Authority buildings, se-

were among several changes to management's position.

The union termed that offer disappointing, noting employee pension contributions would rise.

Union negotiators countered by seeking a better pension deal and stuck to their earlier demand for a 6 per cent pay hike in a one-year contract. They indicated they were prepared to move on wages later in the bargaining process.

The company will be in a legal position to lock out, and workers will be free to strike, at midnight Sunday night. Management is bargaining with five unions, in seven collective agreements.

niors' projects and churches.

By September, the project will also launch a pre-order truck to sell food to community development projects, food-buying clubs and school food programs.

In announcing the project, Hudson said struggling farmers and impoverished consumers will benefit from the exchange.

Many Ontario fruit and vegetable farmers are unable to sell all of their products because of market conditions, grade standards and periods of excess supply, a report from the Toronto Food Policy Council says.

Prices will be at about the level of Knob Hill Farms' produce.

The project is funded largely by FoodShare, a non-profit organization that seeks alternatives to food banks, and the Ontario government.



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