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UNIFOR
Local1256

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WSIB Worker Rep*

Rob Bond

Chairperson Trustee

Stephen Nunes

Trustee

Tom Rudd

Trustee

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2013

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Since my last report in April a lot has transpired. Today CAW and CEP is now known as UNIFOR, the Union for everyone. When I first heard of our union's new name I was not impressed. In fact texting former President Ken Lewenza I felt it lacked character/direction. It was missing something. Really it was about change. Today this new union has 300,000 plus members across Canada and represents well over 20 major sectors of the economy. Labour Day weekend was our founding convention. Our newly elected President Jerry Dias was elected by the majority of delegates. Jerry Dias who was former assistant to the President Ken Lewenza CAW is no new arrival to the Labour movement. He has been active roughly 35 years with many years as a national rep and as assistant to the President, leading up auto and auto parts. Changes to form this new union are many: a new constitution a new dues formula, national/regional councils, sector councils and community based chapters in local unions. These community based chapters will bring in workers who are unemployed, employed precariously or part time unorganized. It will be community based with specific needs.

Organizing will be a major endeavor of this Unifor union as local unions will be sponsored 50% of the cost from the National. Today more than ever we need a solid direction united labour body. I do believe this is the first step in that direction. The foundation of this new union is not about its name. It is our actions that will identify and we will be judged accordingly. I am excited about this more aggressive militant direction. Our local has been criticized for such actions. I am glad there are more that will join us.

Automodular Unit: It is with great sadness that we learned of Automodular's closing and loss of contract to Ford Motor Company, May 14, 2013. Since this announcement we have managed to negotiate a decent closure agreement with the extension of work until December 2014. Our collective extension will expire June 2015. Under our current provision it would have expired June 30, 2014. This is a bit of good news for 525 members who are losing their jobs. The National Union President Jerry Dias has also negotiated preferential hiring for our members at Ford; I am hoping this will be a benefit for a majority of our members. Shane Wark, National Rep, Stephen Nunes Chairperson, Rob Bond, Tony Selemidis, Sal Cardillo, should all be recognized for the great job of negotiating on behalf of the members. This was only made possible by being part of a union and a membership that supports itself and its leadership. Thanks to all of you, a job well done.

Bargaining: We have had 4 successful rounds of bargaining this year. Our local union has maintained its position of moving forward. Sometimes not all members are in agreement to the settlement we have reached. It is their democratic right to vote yes or no with regards to accepting or turning down the agreement. We are now heading into bargaining with Oakville Transit and Dana. Again our approach will be similar to maintain our position of improvements that benefit the members and their loved ones.

Conservative Government: Today like never before have we witnessed such an attack of workers' rights through policy, procedure and trade agreements that affect all of society. From the world labour organizations abroad there seems to be one mandate to drive down wages and to weaken the organized worker and attack their rights. Our conservative governments both provincially and federally are of the same cloth. Tim Hudak policy think tank would like to see the RAND formula outlawed. RAND formula is named from Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand. This was an arbitration decision in 1946 introduced this formula of automatic dues check off no matter what your union status. This was a decision as a result of a strike in 1945 Ford Motor Company, Windsor. This was a whole community that was affected by the strike and today it is no different. This ideology from both federal and provincial conservatives is not only an attack on organized workers but the community at large. If we look to the United States and the impact they call right to work, I would call it right to work for less. In fact some states of manufacturing are in decline, the right to work states has no effect on job creation but does have an impact on what workers bring home/benefits and pension under the work for less. Today we must resist these outright lies of these conservatives and that they are fighting for your rights. The dissemination of the RAND formula would only harm the worker and weaken the labour movement. It is an attack on all to lower wages, the race to bottom will only weaken our economy. This is the same government that denies global warming and the effects we are starting to witness more and more with the environment.

Good Jobs Campaign: Is a priority of Unifor and will have a forum on this in the upcoming year with or without the federal government support. Too many a worker today are working part time for minimum wage, we need the creation of good jobs that not only support the individual but also the economy. The labour movement is now on the move to pressure the government to raise the minimum wage to \$14.00 per hour. This would at least give workers a living wage to obtain shelter, food and clothing and to contribute to the economy for the betterment of all. Employment agencies and food banks need to become extinct. All workers should have a right to a decent job that pays without having to feel like an unwanted leftover. Pensions are also something that needs to be addressed. As more and more people cannot afford to retire or live in poverty if they do. Again CPP needs to be increased and a plan has already been put forward to the government that has already been rejected by the federal government/conservatives.

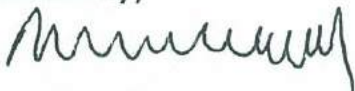
United Way: I would again stress to all to give generously to the **United Way**. Again many are in need and without, it is imperative that we open our hearts and our wallets to those who are less fortunate.

Children's Christmas Party: December 8th, 2013, from 11:30am to 2:00pm to be held at; 2245 Speers Road, Oakville, between 3rd Line and Bronte Road.

International Union Of Operating Engineers.

REMEMBER FIGHTING BACK WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Solidarity,



Angus MacDonald
President,
Unifor Local 1256