
Presidents Report October 2014

Greetings Sisters & Brothers of Local 1256

As communicated in my previous reports the Closure of Automodular Unit & the loss of 525 jobs. As reported in the media the Good News story the first of the Month regarding Ford Motor company hiring & creation of a thousands jobs was not as accurate as first released. The Bad News is part of this apparent good news equation is that 525 Members of Local 1256 are losing their jobs. As we move forward to the closure date reality for our members of Automodular is grim. The Local & the National are still pursuing issues related to a Local Action Centre & hiring with the Ford Motor Company. The Automodular Worker has lived up to the highest standard of workmanship as it relates to the supply of Ford Motor Company. Daily they fulfilled their quality work performance obligations and were part of Fords record profits and success story. My hope is for this workforce from the beginning that they were treated fairly and equally by this hiring process at Ford. It is my opinion that they have not been respected or valued as they continue to build & supply for Ford but no longer meet this standard after Dec23rd. The Policies of Human Resources & hiring screening contracted to an American consulting firm makes no sense. You work at a job for almost nine years continue to perform this quality workmanship and will up until Dec 23rd but no longer meet this standard after the 23rd based on this 6 hr evaluation test that really has no bearing on your daily performance. There are many other issues that may need attention at the Human Rights Commission. I do believe that the monies invested into the Auto industry from the Provincial & Federal Governments are positive. But there is a lack of accountability if we do not have any control or shares on the long haul of our investments from the Public purse. It is my opinion that these monies put forward for the Future of Auto industry should include the Automodular workers as a positive investment included in this package of creating & the hiring of one thousand new jobs. It is the 142 million dollar question as why not? If we are investing in Ford & already have 525 workers that have helped Ford with their record profits and success why would we not include them as part of this investment? They already have a proven track record of great returns. I am sure public opinion would say that we do not give some Multibillion-dollar Corporation Profit machine all these monies to help create more of a burden on the Public system by putting 525 capable people on the unemployment lines. A conservative estimate of half of a million a week for payroll alone along with all the spin off jobs connected would be closer to a million a week lost to the economy. You must also weigh in all costs to EI for all of those Members who now need retraining and continue to be unemployed. The purpose of job creation & investment is defeated. The Local will continue to pursue on behalf of our Members of the Automodular & their families the fullest of representation with regards to all issues relating to this unfortunate situation.

Local Union has completed its last round of bargaining within the Local for this year. Cequent Towing & its Bargaining Committee have done a great Job of representing the Members at the bargaining Table along with The National Rep Mike Langdon. Congratulations to the Members with regards to your new agreement.

Health & Safety within the workplace has to be a priority for all. I have instructed at our last Executive, Chairpersons present that we make sure that our workplaces through our Joint Health & Safety Committees & our Employers are compliant with section 297 of the act. The new regulation- legislation requires awareness training for every worker and supervisor under the OHSA. This is very good news for every worker and supervisor – employer as this heightens ore obligations & awareness of safety within the workplace. I will be following up with all Employers to make sure there is a plan in place. Let us make sure we continue to uphold & respect our Rights within the workplace.

Children's Christmas Party the Local Union is not able this Year to have our annually Christmas Party for its Members & their Family's. The Local Union must maintain first & foremost its priorities of representation for its Members. The Local Executive has agreed that we still must do something for our Members & its Families .The Local Union will be selling tickets for a Local raffle for its Members only. The proceeds of the tickets sold will be donated to the United Way Oakville. The Local will donate the Monies for the cash prizes. There will be three cash prizes of \$1000 & two of \$500. I do believe this is the very best we can do. Your donation of \$5 buys you three chances to win these cash prizes up for grabs. This will be some extra Christmas Cash for some of our Members. We will also be helping those in need through the United Way donation. We will be dispersing the Tickets soon within the Local workplaces. Good Luck to Everyone & much thanks for your donation to the United Way with your purchase of the tickets. The draw will take Place Dec 4th at the United Way Oakville. If any of the Workplace Management would like to donate also they could easily do so by donating funds through the tickets sales & purchasing by buying a group of tickets for all employees – Members or they could also donate single by just a donation to the United Way directly.

I would also like take this opportunity to thank all our Members of Local 1256. It has been a pleasure representing all of you. There have been many issues we have faced and more ahead .Our Local Union since taking Office 6 years ago has finally rid ourselves of this enormous debt. This has only been possible through your support along with an Executive that has worked tirelessly on your behalf along with being financially responsible. We have also managed in this period to negotiate decent Collective Agreements, continued support for our Members when up against illness & injury, terminations. It is our determination that we continue to represent our Members to the fullest. As always the Local Union will represent you on your WSIB, STD and LTD claims. Marley Milford who is also the Locals Secretary treasurer will assist you your WSIB claims. Marley is in the Local Tuesdays & Thursdays at extension 202. You can also reach out to me any time my cell is 905-467-5133.

Remember Fighting Back Will Make A Difference

In Solidarity
Angus MacDonald
President Unifor Local 1256