

Presidents Report June 2014

Greetings Sister's & Brother's

The Local has completed its nomination election process. I am happy to report acclamation for most of our Executive, the remaining was appointed there after. The Local Union will continue as always to represent our Members to the fullest respecting their Membership to the Local Union upholding their rights as always. Thank you for this vote of confidence you have given us.

Bargaining- The Local Union has successfully completed seven rounds of bargaining within the last year. All were a success for Our Members with substantial gains overall. The Local has one more round upcoming in August and will pursue the same for our Members within this Unit.

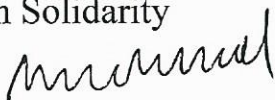
Automodular Unit – As reported in my last report the up coming closure of Automodular and the loss of Jobs for 525 Members a result of Fords decision to in source. The Local along with the in plant Leadership and the National Union have continued to pursue Ford Motor Company and their commitment to our Members of preferential hiring. The Union has now received word of applications that will be distributed to our Members at Automodular this week. Ford will maintain its normal hiring practices, procedures, and interviews. I am hoping that our Members receive fair treatment and that a majority is hired from the current Automodular Units. The Members that are not selected the Local will still pursue an action centre at the Local Union to help assist our Members with future Employment location training and future skills. The Union has also negotiated a decent severance package – closure agreement. The Local & your in Plant leadership will update you once we are informed of how all of this transition will take place and the final closure date. Again our Strong commitment to our Automodular Members facing this grim reality of job loss is a tough road to travel and we will be there with full support as we move forward.

Unifor Rights at Work Campaign – We are now in the midst of contacting our Members one by one to communicate the importance of our rights and defending them. What's at stake if we loose these rights? Please take a moment to review the correspondence and understand that good jobs with benefits, pensions, safe work environments and fair treatment are all up for grabs in this global political climate today. Together we can continue to Fight & Defend our Rights collectively if we stand together. The benefits of union membership are not only an advantage to its Members but for all of society the gains are felt. For those that wish to destroy our Rights are to benefit a few that already profit from the inequality that continues to rise with this right wing corporate agenda.

Upcoming Provincial Election- It is important that on June 12th your voice is heard by getting to your polling station with your vote. The single most important thing we can do as working class citizens is to defeat Tim Hudak. This wide-eyed fast talking magician is promising to create one million jobs. His plan includes slashing taxes for whom? Eliminating 100,000 jobs within the public services. Who remembers Walkerton and the Mike Harris years? Mike proposed similar things creating jobs, slashing taxes, cutting public services and spending. In fact Harris did a number of other of questionable things and who benefited from all this mess? Certainly not the Children or the poor. Not the citizens of Walkerton or the Native Canadians of Ipperwash. Not the injured worker or the working class. You see there are similarities this time round with Hudak who by the way was part of the Mike Harris government back in the ninety's. They called this Platform the common sense revolution. Hudak's plan is to gut the Labour movement by Americanizing you Rights at Work. You see if he could successfully eliminate your rights through his agenda, whom in the end will this serve? Would it be the children who weekly rely on food banks and school breakfast programs? Would it be the working class, the senior citizen, the sick, the retiree, single parent family or a Health care system on its way to future privatization? No the math is easy. Tim Hudak wants further tax cuts for the Rich and Corporate interests. Tim Hudak and the Conservatives are more interested in eliminating our rights and creating a future of have-nots. Our youth underemployment is upwards of 20 percent in some areas of this province. Where is their future headed? The last 6 years have been fragile to say the least within our economy and globally. Affordable living and housing is a challenge for most. We certainly cannot afford any more of this Tory nonsense. The conservative government federally with their global imbalanced Trade agreements has put us workers –citizens at further job losses. I forgot to mention the Temporary Foreign Worker program and the manipulation of not only the workers from abroad but also workers here. Again who does this benefit? You see the biggest problem with Tim Hudak is this is just a rerun of the Mike Harris years. None of us can afford this repeat. Mind you if you're wealthy and can pay for your own private healthcare, private schooling belong to the upper crust of society, then you will love Hudak's plan for you. When Hudak brags he will balance the budget within two years you must ask at what cost? Historically the Tories are known to ring up the largest deficits. In 2003 the Tories left a deficit to the Liberal government of 5.6 billion and a trail of catastrophes. June 12th get out and vote and let's rid ourselves of Hudak's plan for you.

The Local Website the Local has a new website if you type in WWW.Unifor1256.ca you will be able to view. We will be updating shortly as we have just finally be able to officially have this site functioning. As always if you need to contact me the info is on the site. Have a great summer enjoy some well-deserved time off the job.

In Solidarity



Angus MacDonald
President Unifor Local 1256