

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
APRIL 2013**

GREETINGS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

I WOULD LIKE to give a brief report regarding Local and Labour issues that affect us all.

The Local Union has 3 units up for negotiations this year with a start up of a fourth unit by the years end.

It has been our focus and direction to make gains as we move forward on behalf of our Members. We will continue this progression with these units that head into bargaining this year.

Our process is driven by the Members through their proposals and expectations of improving their collective agreements to earn a **good lively hood** and improving working conditions **which is a must**.

INJURED AND SICK WORKERS – The Local Union has a number of current WSIB and STD, LTD claims that we are representing on behalf of our Members. This has always been a priority of the Local since I was elected as Local President to make sure our Members have the fullest representation when dealing with these sometimes complex issues. Marley Milford has taken on the extra duties of WSIB rep for the Local since Mike Sutherland's retirement, once our Local reps have exhausted their efforts at the workplace it will then come to the Local.

HEALTH & SAFETY – I cannot stress enough the importance of Health & Safety in the workplace. It is probably the most important task at hand daily when we are working. Whether it be ergonomics, occupational exposures, violence in the workplace, proper training and safe work practices, it is important that we all make it home after a days work safely to our loved ones.

It is crucial that all our Health & Safety Representatives do everything they can to improve the workplace safety for our Members, our lives depend on it.

It is imperative after we inform not only the supervisor of a potential hazard but also our Health & Safety Reps so they can take action on our behalf. Every one of us has a duty & obligation under the Act, from the worker to supervisor & management and our Health & Safety Reps.

We, as Workers, have the **RIGHT TO KNOW, THE RIGHT TO REFUSE AND THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE**.

CAW LOCAL 2011 – DAIMLER BUS – The Local currently has an Action Centre operating in the lower level of our Local Hall for these Members.

The harsh reality for these Members of losing a good job and trying to find new work with the same standards is challenging to say the least. Today's reality in the job market is discouraging. Half the workforces in the GTA and Hamilton are in precarious part time work. When our Federal government pats itself on the shoulders with regards to creating jobs it is true of only one fact, that they are part time low paying sub standard. This is discouraging and devastating not only for the worker but also the economy.

THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS in this latest Federal budget, to have the Federal government invest billions into the Canadian industry including the manufacturing sector. This is long overdue as we are all aware of the beating this sector has taken.

Our Union has also been front and centre fighting for a National strategy for manufacturing and the auto industry an auto policy that would be effective to create more sustainable employment. What we refer to as a Good Job, jobs that are not part time low paying, jobs that actually address not only the Worker's needs but also society as a whole.

So many people today are choosing between paying the rent or buying food. Social agencies like the United Way and Food Banks have become a way of life for many. It is time these governments – corporations take responsibilities for their actions regarding Fair Trade Policies. Currently we have a trade deficit of \$100Billion – the race to the bottom needs an end.

It is also like a worn out record that the Conservatives continually repeat, lower taxes = job creation, for the record, fantasy land = \$600 Billion of tax savings these corporations now sit on. It is time to re-invest in the economy.

This global financial disaster was self manufactured with record profits on Wall Street. These bankers and scam artists all should have gone to prison. These continued imbalances of trade for the corporates only lines the pockets of the rich.

2 million unemployed in Canada only 1 in 3 qualify for EI benefits. This also needs to change along with Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security. This continued agenda of the right has been relentless.

A LIVING WAGE – There are many millions of Canadians today that are hungry and Billions world wide starving. The imbalance and distribution of wealth is criminal. The next time we hear some corporate right winger complain and say it's because of high taxes and Unions and government workers tell that ungrateful right wing corporate to go straight to hell. It is only because of their greed we find ourselves in the predicament we are in today, nothing more – nothing less.

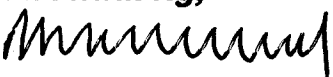
In Canada alone these corporate tax cuts = \$600Billion tax incentives not being reinvested back into this country.

REMEMBER FIGHTING BACK MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

What would 3% of \$600Billion do for our economy? Would Austerity be a relevant argument? Would the millionaire Toronto Mayor be seen, as some would say, doing the right thing? Would there be such a need for Social Agencies? Why do the wealthiest 1% have all the say?

When these questions can be answered with honesty, without a salesman's bias or a politician's platform, the 99% of us would have a different reality.

In Solidarity,



Angus MacDonald

President

CAW Local 1256