



**LOCAL 1256**

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



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Days of Action London, Ontario

**FEBRUARY 2012**

### **GREETINGS SISTERS AND BROTHERS**

**All** the best to all of you in this New Year, I am hopeful that we can maintain the level of production that we have experienced in this last year.

**There** are so many factors that play a part within the economic climate, a huge player are these right wing governments and their policies and agreements. In bed with these governments are the movers and shakers of the Global economy and the so-called free market capitalists. I can give you the most recent example of how this system works well for a global company called Caterpillar.

**I was** in London, Ontario on January 21<sup>st</sup> along with 15,000 other demonstrators in Victoria Park to support our Sisters and Brothers of Local 27, who were locked out on January 1<sup>st</sup> by these overstuffed fat cats a company called Caterpillar.

**In 2008** Harper visited this plant to hand out a 5 million dollar tax break. It was an obvious showcase for Prime Minister Harper regarding corporate tax breaks. This company has recorded the highest ever profit, it jumped 83% over the previous year to 4.9 Billion dollars. All in the same breath they now want the Workers to take a pay cut of 50%. The company executives have been paid millions in bonuses. The arrogance and the greed are so obvious. It is why we need to expose what is happening to the 99% in the world.

**Again** we need to elect Governments that address the issues of the majority and not the selected few. We also need to educate ourselves when voting for a party and how their policies affect our daily working lives.

**We also** need to be proud of the fact that whether we work on the shop floor, driving a bus, or truck, skilled trades, retail, transportation or a healthcare worker we are doing an honest days work. We are not scamming or planning on ways that we can take advantage of our fellow man, who for the most part are just getting by. The elitist, the hierarchy of these global-corporate Governments cannot say the same.

**Another** example of this Harper Governments latest attack is on the pension system and the workers. How does this help the Worker who is now forced to work longer and if you choose to go earlier would be penalized. This is after the Prime minister has stated that our Pension Plan is fully funded and sustainable.

**The** CLC and the Labour Movement has proposed funding increase to CPP that would give all citizens a decent pension to increase by 50% maximum. This would be funded by the employer employee contributions over 7 to 10 year period. This is a far better solution to our pension dilemma.

**All** these corporate tax breaks all the constant serving up these corporatists who whine and say if you cut our taxes it will help us create jobs. This is the furthest from the truth; we have now lost over a half a million jobs in the manufacturing sector. These corporations that manipulate Governments and the average citizen to pay their way and before you know it they are moving somewhere else, stock piling their wealth off to some other state, Province or Country to receive another hand out, cheap Labour to manipulate the Worker and the average citizen.

**It is a crime**, these corporations and Governments need to be more socially accountable to us all and pay their way.

**CAW-CEP**-both are in talks regarding a merger that would form a new union. Over the next few months committees from both Unions will review issues related to forming a new union. This will certainly give us strength in numbers and I believe will make us more effective when battling these corporate elitists, these politicians who have a common agenda. They all wear the same stripes.

**Our** General Membership meeting is Sunday February 12, 2012 at the Local Union Hall at 10:00am. I encourage the Membership of Local 1256 to participate. It would be a good problem if we had too many members attend. **Your participation within our Union Is imperative.**

**REMEMBER FIGHTING BACK MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

In Solidarity,

Angus MacDonald  
President  
CAW Local 1256