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PRESIDENTS REPORT JUNE 2015

GREETINGS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

The Local Union opened its doors to the Automodular Action Centre in February. We officially opened the first week of March. This Action Centre at the Local Union Hall is a commitment, which serves its Automodular Members who lost their jobs due to a plant closure December 23, 2014. This is a great resource centre for our Members to learn how to do resumes, to take ESL and learn computer skills. There is also a job posting board and Members are schooled in job interviews. My many thanks for this Action Centre to become reality for our Members; my hat is off to Unifor National President Jerry Dias, Peter Kennedy, Shane Wark and the Local bargaining committee of Automodular Unit as well as Nikki Smith Human Resources Automodular Corporation, Kevin Flynn Liberal MPP-Labour Minister and Cammie Peirce and Kevin Shields National Reps who support this Action Centre with their knowledge and guidance daily. Big thanks to Sal Cardillo former Committee Member from the Automodular Unit who does an excellent job of coordinating all the programs and service providers into the Local. All the best to our Automodular Members with their future endeavours.

Presidents Conference – Recently attended in April. This conference was held to gather ideas and to strengthen the Local Union base since the formation of Unifor in September 2013; this has been a mandate of Unifor in building stronger Local Unions.

Now this Local Union Task Force will apply the recommendations and ideas put forth at the Presidents Conference with an agenda and direction of how we will proceed. There will be Town Hall meetings across Canada, there will be an update as to when in the Oakville area we will have this meeting and look forward to input from our Members and Activists on building stronger Local Unions.

Our Local looks forward to sharing its resources with other Locals and also share space at the Union Hall.

There is an on-line survey on the Local 1256 website www.unifor1256.ca/en directions are provided under the heading NEWS on how to access this survey. This survey is provided by our National Union and your participation is important.

Local 1256 since my first term of election have prided itself with strong representation which has included a collective front with all its units and its representation. We have had success throughout this period and currently with collective bargaining and representation for our Members with STD, LTD and WSIB. There is no secret that our success has been and will continue to be a united front with our representatives and with our Members. Today more than ever this must be our stance.

I do know part of being human is a desire to compare and complain of maybe what it is that is something better that someone has that you may desire. This can be used as a positive thought for improvements moving forward and it can also be used as a total destruction of one's ability to understand and touch base with reality. Let us not be divided on our direction. My hope is we find our common ground with respectful debate – differences can be something we build on - not use to divide. We always expect full participation from our Members that is progressive not regressive, in the end it contributes to a positive direction and not contamination and poison of our workplace. Social media is a dangerous platform for this format you should come to a Unit Union meeting and discuss your issues. Social media for the most part are points brought forward by individuals and can turn into a one-sided monster; the Local cannot personally comment on any Members case this is confidential. When someone does bring forward a comment on social media you should ask yourself is this factual or is this just more of the same one sided fiction. I encourage all our Members to question these know-it-alls and make sure you understand there are always different sides to the story. Please don't be swayed by a fools anger and dissatisfaction within themselves.

Our economy in Canada remains the same, slow growth with a bit of a downturn in this last quarter. A positive outlook for the remainder of the year again with growth but slow and improvements in 2016 again a slower growth is predicted. Companies are still not investing in new technologies or hiring which is unfortunate as it slows the growth even further. The one fact remaining the same since 2008 – 2009 economic downturns the rich made a hell of a lot of money off everyone else and made the poor and working class worse off.

The Government of Ontario has started public consultation on Ontario Labour Reform on June 16th in Toronto. Unifor is in the process of preparing a written submission. Dates have been announced for Ottawa, Mississauga, Guelph, Windsor, Sudbury and Hamilton. Unifor Ontario Regional Council Board will guide this process from our Unions perspective. Ontario Government is interested in addressing the reform required to provide better protection to workers engaged in non-standard work, temporary contract low wage. Our union Unifor also shares this interest; it has been 20 years since we have seen reform to Labour Laws in the Province of Ontario. Any time we can have public and the Labour community united as part of a working group to make conditions better for workers is a process we must participate in.

Federal Election October – It is important that this Conservative Government under Stephan Harper Regime is defeated. This right wing ideology has been very destructive to what Canadians really stand for. In fact it has been a dictatorship. Canada is the envy of the world as a place to live a country of peace and democratic values. Under Harper he has destroyed a lot of our common values. From the Health Care Accord and the lack of funding to Provinces with 36 billion in cuts, the Pension plan OAS raising the age to 67 without any democratic discussions the environment and Global warming/climate change, failure to reduce it carbon emissions. The attacks on workers' rights as the Federal H & S right to refuse watered down rights. Also collective bargaining rights. The attack of civil liberties with Bill C-51 disguised under the good intentions to combat terrorism and the constant attack on labour with Bill 377. The silencing of any opposition including scientists with regards to Global warming/climate change or any issue that would be in conflict with big business the corporate elite. It is time we elect a government that actually represents the people and not the corporations the rich and oil companies. It has been this serve myself mentality of individualism that is instilled in so many today that has brought us to this disaster. Again we need to challenge and fully understand what each party stands for and who they serve. Conservatives serve the rich and the corporate elites; if that's you I guess we know why you voted for them. If you're a worker and just an everyday citizen its time you did your study prior to Election Day and get out and vote.

Remember all the good things labour and unionization has brought us and has actually enhanced our lives, from benefits, paid holidays, schedule of work hours, overtime pay, 40 hour work week, wages, pensions, health and safety, labour laws....

FIGHTING BACK WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Solidarity

Angus MacDonald
President, Unifor Local 1256