



LOCAL 1256

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President's Report

July/2012

Greetings Sisters and Brothers

I hope you are enjoying some time off the job. Enjoying time to do whatever it is that is important to you. Spending more time with your family and loved ones. Taking a trip or just a rest from work. I hope all is well.

There are certainly many issues we as workers are facing, not only this hot humid weather, but also this hot & heavy climate we are in with our Provincial & Federal Governments. From Austerity measures to these ongoing imbalanced trade agreements, almost in secrecy this Harper Government functions.

The Leader of the Provincial Conservative Party, Tim Hudak with his latest rendition of Flexible Labour Markets. Hudak proposes cheap labour, low wages. His Wisconsin pipe dreams in Ontario are an apparent solution to revitalize the Economy. Attacking the Unions & the Workers it represents in order to I guess become more flexible, more modern. More is the word. They want everything & more from us. The race to the bottom. The Worker is seen as some inefficient part of this Global Trade Paradise. It is everything for these Corporates & these right wing government elitists serving up the menu. The average Canadian is trading off paying far too much to please this agenda of the few privileged.

CAW National has met with all three major political parties in Ottawa regarding the need for a National Auto Policy. All were in agreement for the need for such a policy. CAW National President Ken Lewenza held Town

Hall meetings at various Locals across southern Ontario prior to this trip to Ottawa.

The outreach was for the Communities at large. The importance of the Auto Industry and the positive effects it has on the Community as a whole. I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to sign the Good Jobs Pledge Petition. The Auto Industry is paramount to Canada, Canadians & obviously our economy.

The Auto Industry employ's 112,000 directly in Canada. Thousands more jobs are created to supply the industry. Auto Workers paychecks pumped \$6.1 billion into the economy last year or \$17 million a day. The major original equipment manufacturing jobs are estimated to stimulate 337,000 other jobs across this country. Auto was responsible for \$53 billion worth of exports last year. Second only to the oil & gas sector.

Auto produces twice as many direct jobs supporting the community services such as Health Care, Education, and Social Services. Autoworkers also support the United Way, Food Banks, and Women's Shelters. Municipal taxes paid through home ownership of Autoworkers are an estimated \$468 million.

Last year Autoworkers paid \$1.6 billion in income, payroll and sales taxes or \$4.4 million per day. There is no argument against the survival of this industry in Canada. We have experienced devastation of job losses & layoffs in this industry. I do believe once you weigh some of these stats I have provided there is a need to continue to fight for an Auto Policy that will surely affect us all if we continue to ignore the importance of one.

CAW-CEP is still in the process of forming the creation of a new Union. The CAW will have its Collective Bargaining Council meeting in Toronto August 20th to 24th. This is the process for our Union and the Local delegates will vote on these issues regarding the New Union. The CEP will have their process with its Delegate Members in October. I will keep the Membership updated. You can also go to our Local website and click on the icon New Union Project, I am in support of this New Union. Workers rights are under attack like never before. Whether it be changes to EI, Pensions, WSIB, lack of Good Jobs, Globalization and the lack of transparency regarding future trade agreements, Foreign takeovers of Canadian Companies, Resources or should I say, hostile, that will effect in the end the social aspect, services, programs as we know it in Canada.

LABOUR DAY I hope to see you Sept 3rd, Hamilton, Locke & York Street, 10am for the parade then back to Dundurn Park for a BBQ. Remember, **Fighting Back Makes a Difference.** Right now **the Working Class is in the Fight of Their Life.**

In Solidarity,

Angus MacDonald
President
CAW Local 1256