



• EXECUTIVE

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The Conciliator

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Regina, SK.

[Http://cep594.sasktelwebsite.net](http://cep594.sasktelwebsite.net)

Volume 1, Issue 12

March, 2007

From The Administration VP's Desk

Dear Members,

In the last round of negotiations (2004), we discussed the granting of holidays during shutdown. The Company asked for examples of refusals. We presented some and the issue was dropped because they gave us their word that they would be reasonable and seriously look at each request. This is not a bargaining issue this round but I am saying to the membership today that if you have a need for holidays during shutdown and in your mind, not your supervisor's, believe it is important to you (for example – graduation, wedding etc), then request it. Weighing in the fact that we are needed for turnarounds. If there are refusals for serious needs, please contact a bargaining member; we would like to hear about it.

A second note to the membership is the administering of the safety boot allowance. These are general instructions and do not cover every aspect of the program. The PDD and Administration offices aside because their usage is granted on the basis of need only. The other shops who use safety footwear daily are granted the use of \$156.30/year for boot allowance. You may carry over 1 year's allotment to the next year but only for 1 year, for a cumulative total of \$312.60. You may buy boots 2 ways:

1. Buy a pair of boots at any retailer of your choice except the 3 that the refinery has an account with and then submit the bill you paid for with a boot slip ob-

tained at the stores window and a filled out expense form (# 107) by your supervisor. This all goes in to accounting who will then cheerfully issue you a cheque. Check around for bargains and sales, stretch your allotment dollars.

2. Obtain a boot slip from the stores window, just the same as you would if you required prescription safety glasses at work. Go to any of the 3 retailers specified and charge your boots on account. Should you spend more than the allotted amount then you will be deducted the difference from your paycheque.

In no instance should any member have to seek permission or approval for the purchase of regular safety footwear. This is your decision. If your boots are worn out and need replacing or were a poor fit and inadequate, you decide and no one else. If this is not the case, once again, please contact a bargaining member. Please do not abuse our entitlement, it is a good one.

Folks, work safely through shutdown so we can all enjoy a great summer and we will give you an update on local bargaining issues as soon as we know something new ourselves.

Regards,

Lance Holowachuk

• **SHOP STEWADS**

Section I:

George Brailean

Section II:

Jason Kelly

Section III:

Kevin Saworski

Section IV:

Jeff Yakimchuk

Relief Pool I&II:

Jeff Roffey

Relief Pool III & IV:

Vacant

Yard:

Rodney Geiss

Pipefitters:

Wayne Globisch

Mechanics:

Ward Allen

Stores:

Brenda Oleskiw

Electrical:

Dwayne Lockert

Instrumentation:

Daryl Schwartz

Fire & Safety:

Wayne Lozinski

PDD:

Donny Stilborn

Administration:

Lois Spencer

Lab:

Denise Hersikorn

Pumpers:

Al Dorosh

Decokers:

Jon Javorik

Welders:

Greg Schultz

PDD Warehouse:

Steve Ripplinger

More Canadians working for poverty wages

CLC/CALM

A growing number of Canadians are stuck in jobs that don't earn enough to pay the rent and feed their families. That is the most striking finding in a report released by the Canadian Labour Congress at the end of 2006.

While more Canadians are working and some are earning a little more than last year, the number of people working for poverty wages is on the rise.

"As a country, we have a problem when one out of every eight people that have a job, stays poor and one out of every four workers have jobs that offer little economic security or stability," says Ken Georgetti, president of the CLC.

The Report Card 2006, Is Your Work Working for You? compares job and income statistics for the first half of each year since 2001, and there is quite a contrast. On the bright side there is growing job creation, reduced unemployment, some growth in real wages and household savings. In the shadows is a surprising growth in the number of working poor and a widening gap between those who earn the most and those who earn the least.

"A truly healthy economy would do a better job of sharing its prosperity," says Georgetti. The Canadian Association of Food Banks recently reported that people with jobs make up the second largest group of food bank cli-

ents. Campaign 2000's latest report card on child and family poverty in Canada shows that a third of low-income children live in families where at least one parent worked full-time for the entire year.

Georgetti says the growth in poverty among working families has more to do with the poor quality, not the quantity of jobs being created. "In a tight job market, employers should be able to offer permanent employment to workers, yet 27 per cent of adult workers still find themselves with part-time, temporary jobs or in some form of self-employment," he says.

According to Georgetti, the new jobs being created are not replacing the manufacturing jobs being lost—300,000 jobs over the past four years. The energy boom that's creating good jobs, largely in Western Canada, has only replaced one in six of the jobs lost in the manufacturing sector since 2002.

"Getting a job is supposed to mean getting ahead. Raising the wages of the poorest workers would be a good place to start, which means bringing minimum wages above the poverty line and providing the means for the working poor to improve their skills, including basic literacy and numeracy programs," says Georgetti.

Safety was first

People may not get enough "pat on the back" around here, but I'll give one. I was called out to do a job on a leaking rich DGA line in section IV. I was told that breathing air and a chemical suit would be required to do the job. Before anything else took place the M.O. and myself went to check out, from a distance, the job area. We then convened in the control room to develop a safe work plan – this doesn't always happen. Once a safe work plan was developed, we removed the insulation as planned. So, not to be too long winded, I just want to thank all in and out of scope individuals involved.

This situation was handled very safely and professionally.

In Solidarity,

Steve Howe

Health And Safety

Company charged with criminal negligence causing death

CAW Health, Safety and Environment/CALM

In what one senior police officer called a first in Canada, a company has been charged with criminal negligence in the death of an employee.

Crown prosecutors in Quebec have charged Transpave following the death of employee Steve L'Ecuyer, 23, who lost his life last October after being crushed by heavy machinery. The company, based in St-Eustache, northwest of Montreal, produces paving stones. Jean-Pierre Lecot, deputy director of the St-Eustache police depart-

ment, described the charge—criminal negligence causing death—as the first of its kind against a company in Canada.

The Criminal Code was amended to allow such charges against a company after the fatal explosion at the Westray mine in Pictou, N.S., in May 1992. Twenty-six miners were killed. Two mine managers were charged criminally but charges were stayed on account of lack of evidence.

Ensuing investigations found many safety violations, blatant disregard for worker safety and attempts to alter records.

“The management of health and safety at the Transpave factory is defi-

cient as far as inspections, safety procedures and training are concerned,” provincial commission inspectors wrote in a report.

Henri Masse, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour, said charges should have also been brought against company shareholders. “We deplore the fact that no charges were laid against company shareholders, since the law allows it,” Masse said.

“It's fine to impose fines, but that is not going to bring back this young worker.” Transpave said in a brief statement it will plead not guilty to the charge. The company added it will have no other comment pending the legal proceedings.

National Bargaining Program Update

In case you have not heard yet, the National Energy Bargaining Program has selected Local 501 Petro-Can in Edmonton to set the pattern for the energy industry. The Edmonton market is very strong and competitive, which should lead to a settlement that is reflective of the strength of our industry. The decision to target Local 501 was made after consultation with the major employers in the oil and gas industry, and after consultation with Local 501 and the Petro-Can bargaining units in a meeting in Toronto on February 24. This decision was relayed to the Advisory Committee via a conference call on March 1, where the bargaining plan was discussed and confirmed. Once an agreement is reached in Edmonton, a bargaining conference will be called to present the tentative agreement to the advisory committee,

who will then make a recommendation to the conference to ratify or reject the settlement. If ratified, this will set the pattern for the wage increase and term, as well as any other national issues agreed to at the bargaining table. Bargaining is to progress this month on local issues, with the goal of having the national issues bargained immediately after. The Advisory Committee affirmed the National's full support for Local 501 to push forward in their bargaining to reach a fair and equitable settlement. I will keep you informed of the progress as information becomes available.

Dan Josephson
VP PDD
Advisory Committee Member for Saskatchewan

General Union meetings are held on every fourth

Tuesday of the month in the Union hall.

Upcoming Union meeting:
March 27, 2007 @ 4:45 PM
See you there!

Deadline for the next

Conciliator is

April 10, 2007.

Please send your articles or letters to
webmaster@sasktel.net

The letters and articles in *The Conciliator* express the views and opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the CEP, nor the views of the Editor or the Union Officers.

Bill C-257 update

Bill C-257 update

PSAC/CALM

Bill C-257, the private member's bill to ban replacement workers, is still at the Parliamentary committee stage.

The week of February 8, 2007, was the last day for witnesses to present before the committee.

Once again, the number of employer and business representatives far exceeded the number of

presentations by unions representing working people. Technical briefings took place February 13, and the committee moved to clause-by-clause debate on February 14. The bill is now with the Clerk's office where the report will be drafted and then the bill will make its way back to the House of Commons.

The report needs to be back in the House of Commons for two hours of debate before the vote

can take place (one hour of debate, break, and then a second hour of debate). The Canadian Labour Congress is working with the Bloc Québécois and New Democratic Party to move Bill 257 up the schedule of private members' bills. It is not expected that the bill will be back in the House before the end of March.

Tories choke women's programs

Tories choke women's programs
NDP/CALM

Across Canada, women's organizations face an uncertain future as the Conservative government keeps turning back the clock on equality.

Canadian women still earn less than men—71 cents on the dollar. Many women are still vulnerable to gender-based harassment and violence. Despite important

progress, ordinary Canadians know there's more work to do to achieve full equality.

Stephen Harper's government has put a choke-hold on Status of Women Canada (SWC)—the agency that funds many of the non-profit organizations that lead the struggle for women's equality.

The Conservatives removed the word "equality" from SWC's

mandate and stopped SWC from funding groups that do advocacy or general research.

Last September, the Conservatives announced plans to cut SWC's operating budget by more than 40 per cent. In November, they revealed how they'll start cutting—by closing 12 of 16 regional offices of Status of Women Canada on April 1, 2007.

As Union Activists, we must ensure that this bill passes

Hi all, Having passed the important vote at Second Reading on October 25, 2006, Bill C-257 has now passed the Parliamentary Committee stage on February 15, 2007.

The final reading will be in Ottawa on March 21st. As Union Activists, we must ensure that this bill passes. The National Union is asking that your local go to the CLC website and contact your MP and tell him you expect him to represent you with a yes on Bill C-257. On CLC's web site you will find a link to the Anti Scab Legislation, and also how your MP voted last time.

Please at least get the information out to you local members to fax their MP in support of this important bill. Please let me know what your Local is doing to help with this important fight.

Here is CLC's web site:

http://canadianlabour.ca/index.php/antiscab_legislation

Sincerely,

Kate Mckinley
CEP National Representative
Regina, Saskatchewan
306-777-0004