



National Director's Update

September 2014

Sisters and Brothers,

It was a privilege and an inspiration for me to connect with so many exceptional Steelworkers at the 2014 USW International Convention in Las Vegas in August.

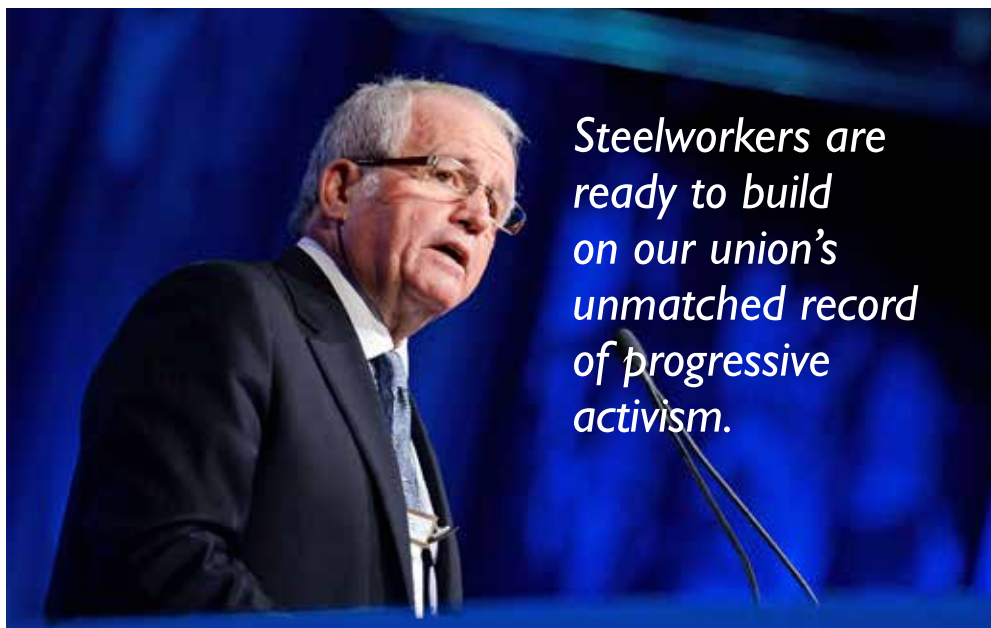
More than 2,500 Steelworkers who came to the convention from all corners of Canada and the U.S. reflect the best of our union – an incredibly diverse membership that continues to produce the most talented, passionate and committed social justice activists anywhere.

Embracing the convention theme *A Union that Works*, delegates showed they are ready to take on the immense challenges confronting our members, our communities and all working people.

Working families face a steady onslaught of right-wing political and corporate attacks on middle-class living standards – a low-wage economic agenda that restricts collective bargaining, expands job-killing trade agreements and fails to create jobs through investments in infrastructure and economic and environmental sustainability.

Canadian Steelworkers took a prominent role on the convention floor in debating and passing resolutions that chart our union's course for confronting these challenges head on. Delegates confirmed the USW's commitment to expand our political activism and defeat the low-wage economic agenda, to educate and empower a new generation of union and social justice activists, to organize workers, to fight for safer workplaces and to build our strong global alliances.

THE STEELWORKERS A UNION THAT WORKS



Steelworkers are ready to build on our union's unmatched record of progressive activism.

Delegates were inspired by powerful addresses from many of our strongest political, labour and social justice allies from Canada, the U.S. and around the world, notably U.S. President Barack Obama and New Democratic Party Leader and Leader of the Official Opposition Tom Mulcair.

Steelworkers activists and rank-and-file members are the best ambassadors for our union and the labour movement and must be agents for progressive change, USW International President Leo W. Gerard said.

"The only way to change people's minds about the value of unions is to share their vision for a better life and offer

them a way to achieve it," Gerard told delegates.

I am proud to have been part of the Canadian delegation that reaffirmed that Steelworkers remain committed, forward-looking and hopeful.

Canadian Steelworkers showed they are ready to build on our union's unmatched record of progressive activism. Steelworkers are ready to organize, to build on our diversity, to innovate, to help more workers obtain dignity and fairness and to build a better world.

In solidarity,



Ken Neumann
National Director

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Tony Burke, Assistant General Secretary of Unite, the largest union in the U.K. and Ireland, addresses USW International Convention delegates. Unite has been one of the USW's staunchest allies in our global campaign against union-busting multinational Crown Holdings.

Strikers Inspire International Convention

USW locals across North America are rallying behind a small but courageous group of Toronto Steelworkers who, despite an entire year on the picket line, continue to stand up to union-busting multinational Crown Holdings.

A presentation by USW Local 9176 strikers was one of the inspiring moments from the USW International Convention in August in Las Vegas. The strikers' passion and commitment led convention delegates to pledge significant financial and strategic support to Local 9176 and its global campaign against Crown Holdings.

U.S.-based Crown is one of the world's largest manufacturers of food and beverage cans, with 149 plants in 41 countries.

Last year the 120 Steelworkers at Crown's Toronto plant received a top corporate award for productivity, efficiency and safety. But that didn't stop Crown from demanding massive contract concessions

and forcing the workers on strike on Sept. 6, 2013.

While giving its CEO a compensation package worth \$7,000 an hour, Crown has demanded cuts from unionized workers including a two-tier wage structure to permanently relegate new hires to pay levels from more than a generation ago. Crown has prolonged the dispute by making more concessionary demands rather than negotiating a fair settlement.

Local 9176 members have demonstrated extraordinary spirit and solidarity. They rejected a company contract offer by a vote of 117-1 and not one member has crossed the picket line.

The USW's global campaign against Crown Holdings includes a boycott of Carnival Corporation cruise lines, whose CEO is a key member of the Crown Holdings board of directors.

For more information on the campaign:
www.takebacksnomore.ca ■

USW joins fight for change in world's deadliest coal mines in Turkey

Steelworkers have joined our global allies to mount an international campaign demanding immediate action in Turkey to protect workers in the world's deadliest coal mines.

Following the Soma mine disaster that killed 301 workers on May 13, the USW joined IndustriALL Global Union's fact-finding and solidarity mission to Turkey. The IndustriALL delegation supported Turkish miners and victims' families and delivered a message of international outrage to the country's political authorities.

The delegation denounced a statement from Turkey's prime minister that "it is the destiny of coal miners to die in the mines."

"The global labour community is united in demanding immediate action from Turkish authorities," said Joe Drexler, head of the USW's Strategic Campaigns Department, who was part of the IndustriALL delegation.

"We call on Turkey to ratify and implement the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Convention 176, which is the international standard for occupational health and safety in mining."

IndustriALL called on the ILO – a United Nations agency – to take a leadership role in delivering change in Turkey.

The IndustriALL delegation met with Turkish workers and union officials and visited the Soma mine.

"The responsibility for the disaster lies with the employer and the government," said IndustriALL mine sector chair Andrew Vickers, of

CFMEU Australia. "If it wasn't murder, it was certainly manslaughter."

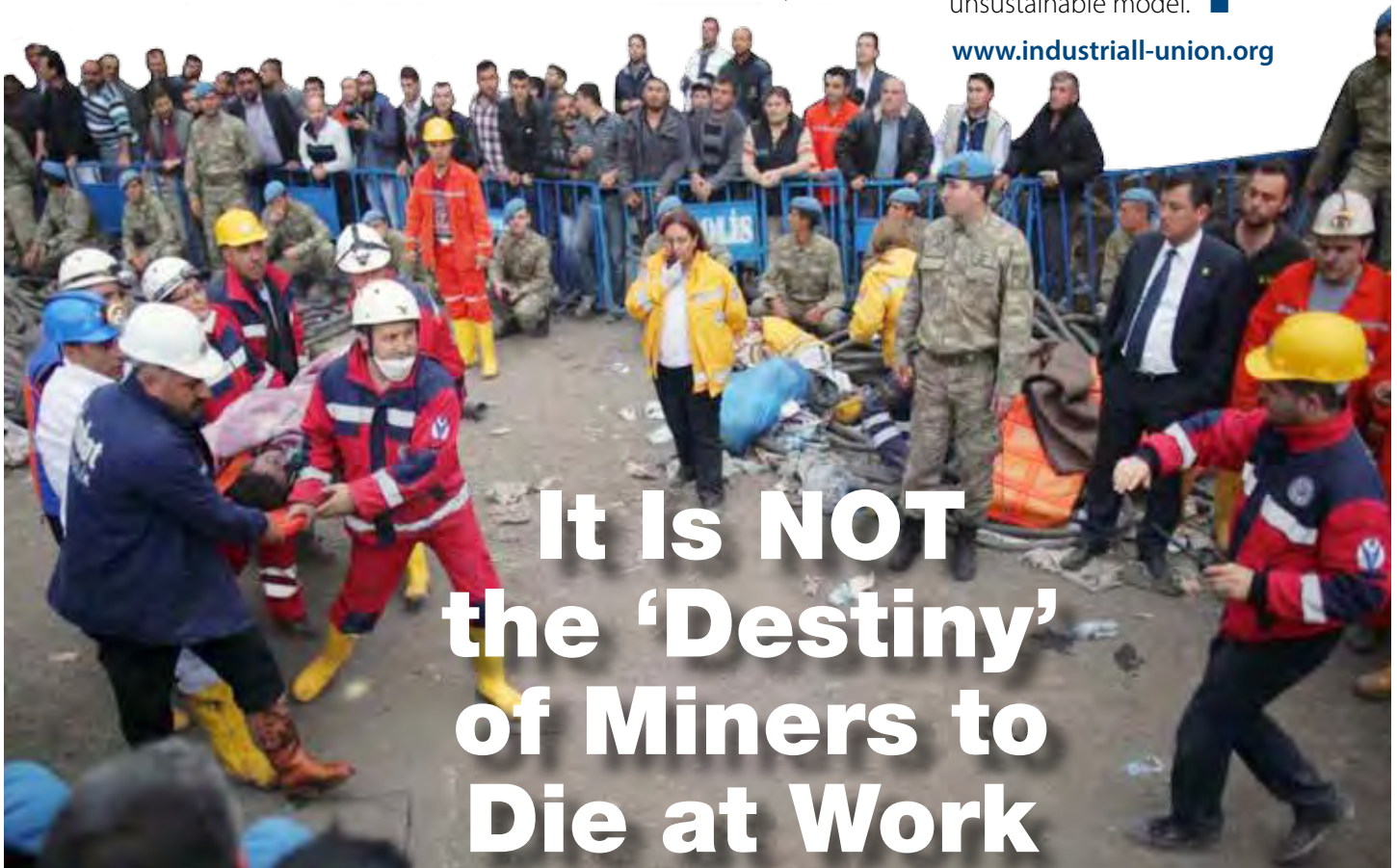
The delegation also met with a Turkish parliamentary commission investigating the disaster. It delivered the pointed message that, unlike Turkey, other countries have improved mine safety through the active involvement of workers and unions.

The death rate at Turkish coal mines is now the highest in the world based on production rates. Over 150 miners were killed in a tragedy one year before the Soma disaster. Another eight miners were killed within a few weeks following the Soma tragedy.

"In recent years the unbridled privatization, subcontracting and cutting corners on health and safety have together transferred value from the Turkish people to private investors," said IndustriALL's Assistant General Secretary Kemal Özkan.

"Hundreds of workers have paid with life and limb for this unfair and unsustainable model." ■

www.industrialunion.org



Stop the Killing Gains Momentum



Nick Howard of Steelworkers Local 7284 (Teck Resources, Coal Mountain) speaks to a resolution at the USW International Convention calling on the union to redouble efforts to fight for stronger health and safety regulations and for enforcement of existing legislation, such as the Westray Law.

The Steelworkers' campaign for better enforcement of the Westray Law continues to gain momentum.

Dozens of Canadian municipalities have passed resolutions urging provincial and territorial attorneys-general to direct police and prosecutors to more fully investigate and prosecute those responsible for killing more than 1,000 workers annually.

In a recent meeting with a USW delegation, federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay agreed to get the issue on the agenda of the coming federal-provincial-territorial meeting of attorneys-general.

The USW campaign helped convince the Nova Scotia government to hire a special Crown prosecutor to focus on workplace safety investigations and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police is sending campaign materials to its members.

"Our message is being heard thanks to families and activists who are taking our resolution forward to their municipal and provincial representatives," says USW National Director Ken Neumann. "Keep up the great work and we will save lives."

British Columbia Steelworkers continue to campaign for a special prosecutor and for a public inquiry following botched



investigations into two deadly sawmill disasters in the province.

Four workers were killed and 42 others were injured in the sawmill explosions in early 2012. WorkSafeBC's botched investigations were cited by the Crown for the failure to lay any charges.

"With seven deaths in the industry this year, the review must lead to meaningful changes to make mining safer in Ontario. We need to do more. We need to stop the killing."

**USW District 6 Director
Marty Warren**

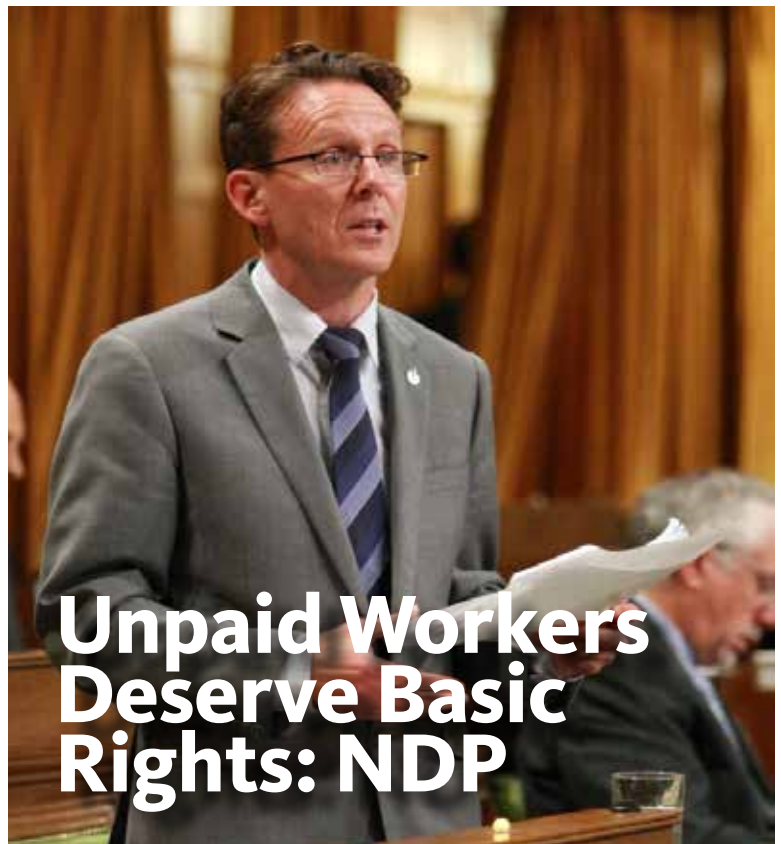
The USW and workers' families have denounced the Liberal government's internal review and inadequate recommendations to deal with WorkSafeBC's massive failings.

"The families who lost loved ones and have been horribly affected by the sawmill explosions deserve better," says USW District 3 Director Stephen Hunt. "A public inquiry is required to provide answers to family members, workers and the public."

In Ontario, the province's Liberal government refused to call a public inquiry into mining health and safety despite a rash of deaths in the industry. However, following a sustained campaign led by the Steelworkers, the government launched a mining health and safety review.

"With seven deaths in the industry this year, the review must lead to meaningful changes to make mining safer in Ontario," says USW District 6 Director Marty Warren. "We need to do more. We need to stop the killing." ■

www.stopthekilling.ca



Unpaid Workers Deserve Basic Rights: NDP

Even workers who work for nothing should have basic legal protections, the New Democratic Party says.

The NDP has introduced a private member's bill in Parliament, the Intern Protection Act, to protect unpaid workers in federally-regulated industries. The bill would include the right to refuse unsafe work, limits on excessive hours and protection from sexual harassment. It would ensure that internships primarily benefit interns and that they include training and do not replace paid employees.

"With youth unemployment sky-high, we are seeing entry-level positions being replaced by unpaid internships that exploit young Canadians and the government has done nothing to stop it," said NDP MP Andrew Cash (Toronto-Davenport).

The Ontario NDP has reintroduced a similar bill to protect unpaid workers under provincial jurisdiction.

"It's tough enough to fight for raising the minimum wage across Canada," says USW National Director Ken Neumann. "Now we see the disgrace of growing numbers of young workers who are told to feel privileged for being 'allowed' to work for free." ■

Sign the petition:

andrewcash.ca/petition-protect-unpaid-interns

Temporary Foreign Worker Program USW Exposes Scandals, Fo



Photo: Tamara Hynd, Winnipeg Free Press

Steelworkers Local 9346 activists Troy Cook (front row, right) and Alex Hanson (middle row, right) join a community rally to support temporary foreign workers at a Tim Hortons franchise in Fernie, B.C.

An unrelenting campaign by Steelworkers continues to expose the federal Conservative government's failure to protect good jobs for Canadians and stop the exploitation of temporary foreign workers.

The USW's national campaign for a complete overhaul of the scandal-plagued Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) has forced the Conservatives into perpetual damage control mode.

The Conservatives have been forced to act but have failed to make meaningful changes needed to fix the TFWP once and for all. Their piecemeal changes allow continued suppression of good jobs for Canadians and exploitation of foreign workers.

Incredibly, on the very day the Conservatives announced their latest changes, official documents came to



Forces Change

light, exposing their failure to crack down on TFWP abuses.

It was revealed in June that the Conservatives had not inspected a single workplace in the country to enforce the program's rules.

Conservative incompetence has allowed widespread abuses and an explosion in the TFWP's use. With almost 400,000 temporary foreign workers in the country, official statistics show the program's abuse has contributed to rising unemployment in many communities.

In July Steelworkers exposed another scandal, related to an agreement between China and British Columbia's Liberal government. The deal pledges that B.C. and China will "work together with the appropriate authorities to secure and facilitate the entry of foreign workers" to develop B.C.'s liquefied natural gas industry.

The USW has called on the federal government to nix the deal and prevent another HD Mining debacle, which was exposed by the Steelworkers last year. In the HD Mining scandal, the company claimed it couldn't find any qualified Canadians and hired miners from China, even

though hundreds of Canadians applied for positions, including many with several years of experience.

The USW also was the first organization to offer support to RBC employees who were asked to train foreign workers taking their jobs. We've also helped temporary workers complaining of abuse by a number of employers.

In July, the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal accepted complaints filed by the USW on behalf of foreign workers alleging abuse at a Tim Hortons franchise.

Canadians have no confidence in the Conservative government's handling of this serious issue. Steelworkers will continue our campaign for a meaningful overhaul of the program to protect good jobs for Canadians and stop the exploitation of foreign workers. ■

www.everyoneschance.ca

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Making a Splash

A Steelworkers Local 6869 team competed in the Dragon Boat Festival in Sept-Îles, Que., in July, helping to raise \$40,000 for community programs supported by the United Way. Local 6869 represents workers at ArcelorMittal operations in Port-Cartier, Que. ■

USW Rail Workers Fund Nears

\$140,000



Nearly \$140,000 has been raised to date for a defence fund to help pay the legal costs of Steelworkers charged in the Lac-Mégantic railway tragedy.

The Justice for USW Rail Workers Fund was set up this spring, following the May 12 arrests of three workers, including USW Local 1976 members Tom Harding and Richard Labrie.

The arrests were deliberately turned into a public spectacle by authorities who orchestrated an American-style 'perp walk,' parading the men in handcuffs before media cameras and the public in Lac-Mégantic.

However, many in the small community in Quebec's Eastern Townships region were not impressed. They shared a widely held view that workers were being made scapegoats and the spectacle was a diversion from the fact no one in a position of power has been touched by the investigation into the tragedy.

The July 6, 2013, derailment and explosion of a train operated by the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway

(MMA) killed 47 people and destroyed much of Lac-Mégantic's downtown core.

No charges were brought against MMA CEO and Chairman Ed Burkhardt, or any other railway executives or the federal Conservative government that deregulated the rail industry and approved the use of single-worker train crews without seriously investigating the implications.

"These workers should not be pilloried for negligent management practices of a company like MMA or the federal government's lax regulation."

USW District 5 Director
Daniel Roy

"These workers should not be pilloried for negligent management practices of a company like MMA or the federal government's lax regulation," says USW District 5 Director Daniel Roy.

"Transport Canada approved single-worker train crews while (Quebec Conservative MP) Denis Lebel was minister, without a serious investigation into the risks of transporting crude oil in this way. But it's the frontline workers they want to prosecute."

Numerous Steelworkers locals, as well as individual USW members, other unions and the public have contributed to the Justice for USW Rail Workers Fund to date.

Donations to the fund are still needed and can be made online via PayPal, at www.justice4USWRailworkers.org. Donations also can be made by cheque, payable to the United Steelworkers, with the notation "Justice for USW rail workers." Cheques can be sent to 565 Crémazie Boulevard East, Suite 5100, Montreal, QC H2M 2V8. ■

www.justice4USWRailworkers.org



Humanity Fund Aids Domestically and Internationally

Steelworkers Humanity Fund contributes \$20,000 to help families affected by widespread floods in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (above) and signs agreement with Liberian trade unionists at USW international convention to assist fight against Ebola outbreak in West Africa. ■



B.C. Forest Workers Reach 5-Year Deal

B.C. Steelworkers and Western Forest Products have negotiated a five-year collective agreement with improvements including a 13-per-cent wage increase.

Members of USW locals 1-1937 and 1-85 overwhelmingly ratified the new contract in August. The deal

also improves pensions, weekly indemnity and extended health benefits.

USW, Locals 1-1937 and 1-85 represent 4,000 members in the forest industry on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Mainland Coast and the Haida Gwaii. ■



Empowering Women of Steel: Canadian Steelworker Carol Landry, USW International Vice-President, brings delegates to their feet.

Habiliter les Femmes d'acier : La Métallo, canadienne Carol Metallos, souleve les délégués.

Capacité d'adaptation : Steel, Canadian Steelworker Carol Landry, vice-présidente internationale du Syndicat des Métallurgistes, souève les délégués.



SYNDICAT DES MÉTALLOS

UN SYNDICAT QUI SE BÂT!

Vincent Boily (SL 8922) et Brianna Broderick (SL 2010) représentent des "L'Esprit de la Jeunesse".

Commitment and passion: Young activists Vincent Boily (Local 8922) and Brianna Broderick (Local 2010) show the promise of the USW's Next Generation.



Leo Gerard and Tom Mulcair: celebrating the achievements of the 53-year USW-NDP partnership.

Leo Gerard et Thomas Mulcair : Célébrer les réalisations du partenariat de 53 ans entre les Métallus et le NDP.

Leo Gerard et Thomas Mulcair: celebrating the achievements of the 53-year USW-entre les Métallistes et le NPD



UNITED STEELWORKERS

WORKERS

A UNION THAT WORKS!

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“We’re going to get the middle class back on track and get the economy moving again. We’re going to get the middle class back on track and get the economy moving again.”



Le président à «soutient la cause des Métallos» pour la journée de l'énergie.

Congrès international du Syndicat des Métallos

11-14 août 2014

Steelworkers International Convention

11-14 August 2014

NPD MP Niki Ashton: A "real union" like the Steelworkers benefits workers, communities. La députée du NPD Niki Ashton : Un «vrai syndicat» comme les Métallos sert les intérêts des travailleurs et des collectivités.



ACTRA member Tabby Johnson rouses USW convention delegates with an inspired performance of the Canadian national anthem.



Tabby Johnson, membre de l'ACTRA, anime le Congrès international avec son interprétation dynamique de l'hymne national canadien.



Rev. William Barber, North Carolina NAACP leader, electrifies convention with a fiery, powerful address. Le révérend William Barber, chef de la NAACP de la Caroline du Nord, électrise le congrès par son discours percutant et passionné.

