

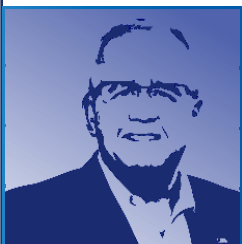


Benoit Marleau, Unit President, USW Local 2008,
ArcelorMittal Coteau-du-Lac, Que.

Photo: Steve Dietz

September 2017

Steelworkers' Progressive Voice Stands Out Amid Trump Chaos



Amid economic uncertainty

stemming from the chaotic Trump administration, the USW stands out as one of the

strongest progressive voices fighting for fair trade and good jobs in key industries in Canada and the United States.

I am proud that our union has been very forceful in lobbying the Canadian and U.S. governments to demand a better deal for workers in the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The USW is calling out the Canadian and U.S. governments, demanding they match their pro-worker rhetoric by adopting meaningful and binding commitments into NAFTA on jobs and labour and environmental standards.

Steelworkers are calling for provisions to defend good manufacturing jobs throughout the NAFTA region and to eliminate the right of foreign corporations to sue governments for enacting laws that protect our health, our environment and our jobs.

Steelworkers in Canada have been aggressive in standing up for our domestic steel and aluminum industries, lobbying on both sides of the border for fair trade rules. Canadian Steelworkers are demanding that governments target the real problem – unfair trade and illegal dumping of steel and aluminum by overseas producers.

I am proud that our international union has led the way in condemning the Trump administration's unjustified tariffs imposed on Canadian softwood lumber exports. Steelworkers are committed to fighting for a fair deal that protects

our members' livelihoods and Canada's forest communities.

In Canada, the USW also continues to be a leading advocate for stronger bankruptcy and insolvency laws to protect employees, pensioners and their families from corporate greed.

The recent insolvency manoeuvring by Sears Canada, which has victimized thousands of employees and pensioners, is the latest scandal to expose the clear need for legislative reforms.

I am proud of our union's record of progressive activism and the commitment of Steelworkers across Canada who work every day to defend good jobs and build stronger communities.

In solidarity,

Ken Neumann
National Director

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Unwavering **SOLIDARITY**

With strong membership and community support, Steelworkers overcome Teck's concession agenda

Solidarity by members of USW Local 7619, employed by Teck Resources Inc. at the Highland Valley Copper mine in British Columbia, has beat back company demands for significant concessions.

Steelworkers recently ratified a new contract after challenging negotiations in which Teck demanded concessions that would have rolled back decades worth of collective bargaining gains.

USW members responded with a 99.8% strike vote and never wavered from their commitment to each other and the community. The local also benefited from strong support from family members and the communities of Logan Lake and Kamloops.

"Our members demonstrated the true meaning of solidarity. Faced with management's attacks, Steelworkers stood together and supported their bargaining committee to achieve a fair deal that respects the work of every member at Highland Valley," says Local 7619 President Kyle Wolff.

"Despite management's approach, we never walked away from the table and were bolstered by our members' strength and support."

The new agreement contains no concessions while improving wages and health and safety language, maintaining the copper bonus to support retirement security and providing progressive language that recognizes the rights of First Nations.

"For decades USW members at Highland Valley have taken great pride in their work and given 100%. Teck management's attempts to turn back the clock have done tremendous harm to the relationship with their employees and the community," says Stephen Hunt, USW Director for Western Canada.

"Once again, Steelworkers have shown that when we are unified we can make significant achievements. Working together, the local never wavered and I'm very proud of the way these members had each other's backs." ■

While most of Canada searched for a slice of summer between rainshowers, the B.C Interior was in flames, enduring the worst wildfire season on record with many USW members affected.

On July 7, lightning storms ignited multiple wildfires near the communities of Ashcroft and 100 Mile House. Paul French was driving home to Williams Lake from Kelowna. The route took him through 100 Mile House, already on evacuation alert. He made it home safely.

Paul serves as 1st Vice-President of Local 1-2017 (the new local formed with the merger of locals 1-424 and 1-425), representing 3,500 workers in forestry, mining and health care.

By mid-August, no structures had been lost in Williams Lake, Paul said, but at least three USW members in the 100-Mile-House area have lost their homes.



Kamloops Steelworkers from USW Local 7619 and USW Local 1-417 held a barbecue for B.C. wildfire evacuees and volunteers.

Summer of Smoke

100 Mile House was evacuated first and 200 USW members were affected by the shutdown of the West Fraser sawmill and 100 Mile Home Support. Evacuees went to Kamloops, where some had to stay as long as two weeks.

The USW and the Steelworkers Humanity Fund is contributing \$100,000 for relief and recovery efforts.

"The wildfires and evacuations have deeply affected individuals and families and continue to create uncertainty about the future impacts on jobs in affected communities," said Ken Neumann, Steelworkers National Director and President of the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.

For Jordan Lawrence, the wildfires made for double duty. A fulltime Financial Secretary with USW Local 1-417 in Kamloops, Jordan is also a volunteer firefighter in Clinton. Jordan drove out of town with his two children, aged two and four, under police escort

when Clinton was evacuated on July 29.

Once his wife and kids were safe, Jordan returned to Clinton to help protect his community, alongside 80 firefighters including at least three other USW volunteers. Clinton's evacuation alert was lifted on Aug. 15. USW commends the bravery and courage of Steelworkers protecting communities from wildfire.

USW Local 7619 and USW Local 1-417 mobilized to host barbecues for evacuees and first-responders in Kamloops and Ashcroft, bringing welcome food and solidarity.

"We want to thank B.C. USW locals for responding to the crisis with on-the-ground support for evacuees and fire responders and with the support of USW locals and SOAR chapters across Western Canada, setting aside additional emergency funds for members facing evacuation," said Stephen Hunt, USW District 3 Director. ■

A wildfire burning near Clinton, B.C.



The Clinton Volunteer Fire Department includes three Steelworkers: John Engelhart (second from left), Gerald Painter (third from left) and Jordan Lawrence (fourth from left).

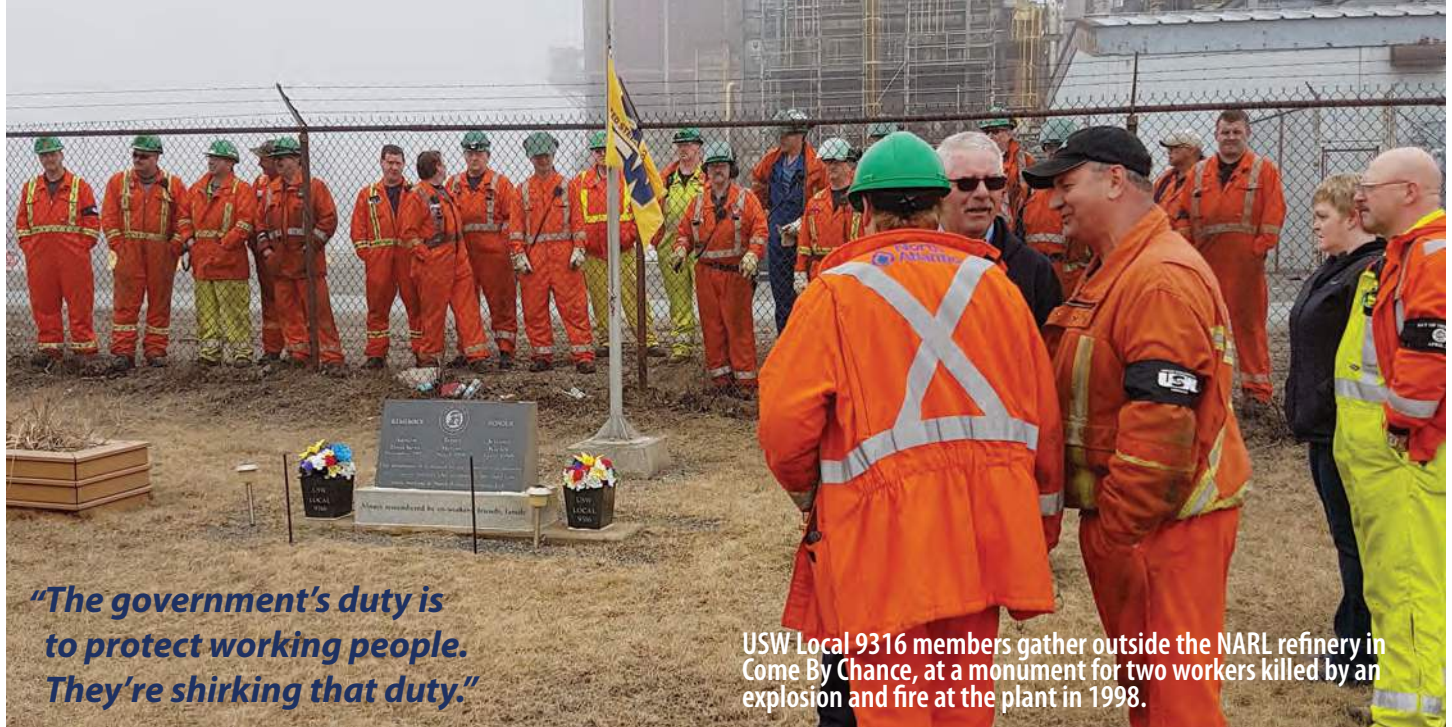


Local 1-2017 held a barbecue for evacuees from 100 Mile House and Williams Lake wildfires.

Life and Fire **B.C. Wildfires**

Photos by Paul French and Jordan Lawrence

USW Oil Workers Stand Up for Safety



"The government's duty is to protect working people. They're shirking that duty."

USW Local 9316 members gather outside the NARL refinery in Come By Chance, at a monument for two workers killed by an explosion and fire at the plant in 1998.

USW Local 9316 is standing up for the safety of workers at an oil refinery in Come By Chance, N.L., calling out the provincial government for ignoring concerns reminiscent of conditions that led to a fatal explosion in 1998.

"Our concerns over health and safety are falling on deaf ears. The government's duty is to protect working people. They're shirking that duty," says Local 9316 President Glenn Nolan, representing workers at North Atlantic Refining Limited, where safety concerns among union members have mounted for months.

"We're calling on the government to engage with us and take meaningful action to help resolve the legitimate health and safety concerns that our members have at NARL, before things get worse," Nolan says.

The union has brought its concerns to senior government politicians and bureaucrats responsible for workplace health and safety, including Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Minister Responsible for Workplace NL.

"We feel that we've got the company and the government working against us," says Perry Feltham, Local 9316 Vice-President and health and safety committee chair. "This is how our people felt 20 years ago – an

environment in which workers felt ignored by the government and the employer."

Feltham was employed at the Come By Chance oil refinery in March 1998, when an explosion and fire caused the deaths of two co-workers, Jerome Kieley and James Mercer.

A public inquiry into the deaths uncovered a dysfunctional and confrontational labour-management relationship at the refinery – particularly regarding health and safety issues – and a lack of provincial government involvement and oversight. The inquiry exposed a lack of safety inspections by provincial government inspectors and concerns over the credibility of inspections prior to the deadly explosion.

"Over the last several months we have been experiencing many of the same concerns that existed at the time of the tragedy," Nolan says.

"It's time for this government to acknowledge the serious concerns of our workers at NARL and to intervene to help resolve these issues," said Marty Warren, USW District Director for Ontario and Atlantic Canada. "We're not predicting another tragedy, we're saying we are very concerned that history is repeating itself." ■

USW Leadership Endorses **Guy Caron** for NDP Leader

NDP Leadership Race

Following a lively debate with the NDP leadership candidates and two telephone town halls for USW members, USW leadership has endorsed Guy Caron as the best choice for NDP leader.

United Steelworkers Directors Ken Neumann, Marty Warren and Stephen Hunt announced their support for Guy on Sept 1.

USW has been impressed by each of the candidates – the level of discussion and policy proposals has invigorated NDP members and supporters across Canada. Steelworkers value our strong labour connections and friendships with Charlie Angus, Niki Ashton, Jagmeet Singh and Guy Caron.

Among this strong field, Guy Caron is the best choice for the future of the NDP. Guy Caron is an articulate social democrat with the vision, principles and political abilities to advance the interests of working Canadians and form the first-ever NDP government.

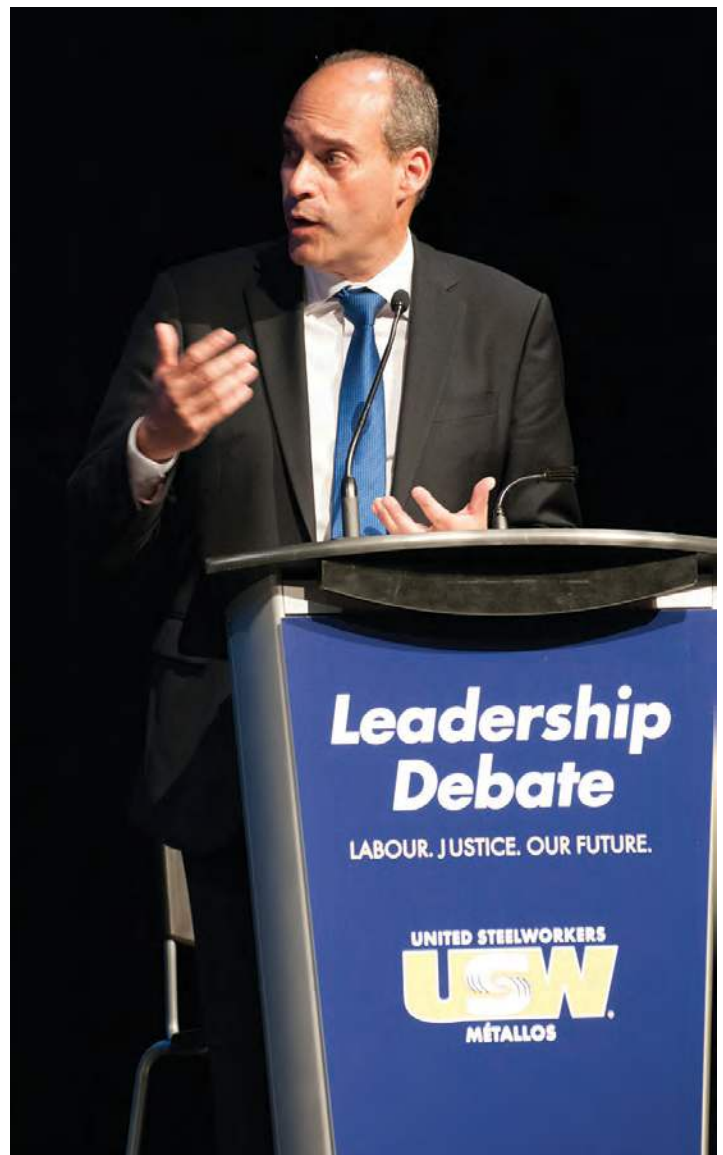
“Guy has introduced strong policy ideas during this race. His basic income proposal is a bold and thoughtful measure for eliminating poverty in Canada,” said Neumann.

“The Steelworkers particularly salute Guy for his visionary Workers First policy. This set of measures shows that Guy has the knowledge and commitment to drive an economic and jobs agenda that progressive Canadians have long been waiting for,” said Warren.

“We need a leader who is personable and authentic. However, we also need policy depth and working class grounding that will carry across the country. Guy is the leader that provides these strengths,” said Hunt.

We encourage debate within the Steelworkers and respect individual members’ opinions, particularly concerning Quebec politics. We cherish democracy within our union and respect those choices.

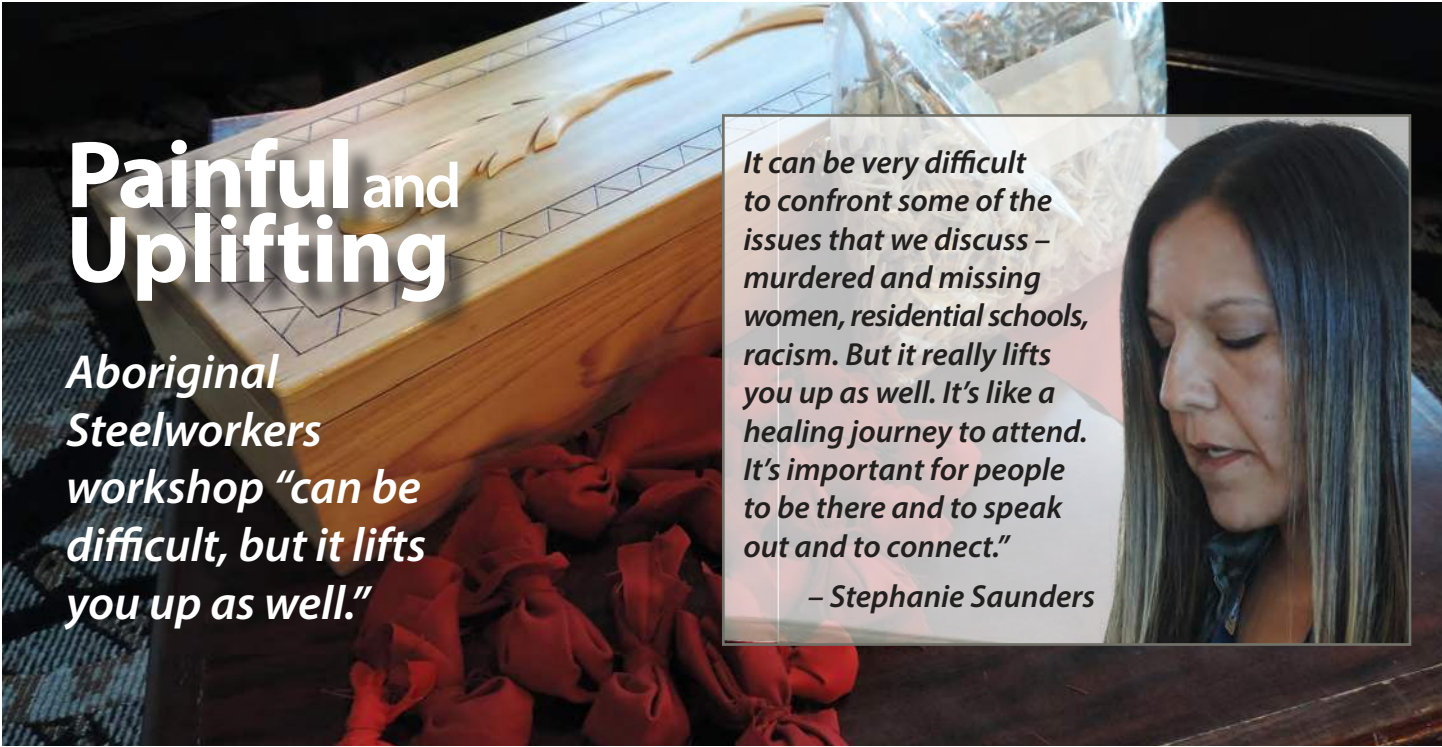
Steelworkers have been engaged in the leadership race by encouraging USW members to join or renew their NDP membership. USW locals have organized membership drives or included information about



joining the NDP in newsletters. USW continues to promote the leadership race to members through our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Catch up on the NDP Leadership Race

- Watch past debates at www.usw.ca/ndp2017
- Follow along on Twitter using hashtag **#NDPIdr**
- Learn about the voting process at www.ndp.ca/voting-process ■



Painful and Uplifting

Aboriginal Steelworkers workshop “can be difficult, but it lifts you up as well.”

It can be very difficult to confront some of the issues that we discuss – murdered and missing women, residential schools, racism. But it really lifts you up as well. It’s like a healing journey to attend. It’s important for people to be there and to speak out and to connect.”

– Stephanie Saunders

For Stephanie Saunders, participating in the National Workshop for Aboriginal Steelworkers is simultaneously painful and uplifting.

“It’s a very powerful experience, to be part of it,” says Stephanie, a USW Local 9074 activist from Norway House, Man., who co-moderated the second National Workshop for Aboriginal Steelworkers in Edmonton in July. She also attended the inaugural workshop held in Winnipeg in 2015.

“It can be very difficult to confront some of the issues that we discuss – murdered and missing women, residential schools, racism,” says Stephanie, whose mother is a residential school survivor. “But it really lifts you up as well. It’s like a healing journey to attend. It’s important for people to be there and to speak out and to connect.”

Joined by USW leaders and activists from all levels of the union, dozens of Aboriginal Steelworkers from across Canada came together for the July 5-6 workshop in Edmonton.

Participants shared personal stories of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and the suffering from the loss of loved ones who were among the murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls across Canada. They also reaffirmed the USW’s support for an effective national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Following the workshop, USW National Director Ken Neumann sent an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, calling for meaningful action to address concerns over the inquiry’s failings.

“I am deeply concerned that the Canadian government is not providing adequate support to the national inquiry, and, as a result, is not supporting families of the missing and murdered. The inquiry has struggled with logistics, when it should be paying attention to Indigenous women, to Indigenous women’s organizations and to Indigenous families,” Neumann’s letter stated.

Workshop participants also welcomed NDP MP Romeo Saganash and unanimously endorsed his private member’s bill calling for the federal government to adopt and implement – through legislation – the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Aboriginal workshop stems from USW policies, adopted at our National Policy Conference, to organize Aboriginal workers, to engage and empower Aboriginal members at all levels of the union, to bargain collective agreements that respect Aboriginal rights and to play an active role in improving living and working conditions for Aboriginal peoples in Canada. ■

Adopt a Striker!

USW District 5 Director Alain Croteau recently launched an Adopt-a-Striker campaign to support 371 Steelworkers who have been on the picket line since February to defend the next generation of workers at the CEZinc refinery in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que.

"After seven months on the picket line, our members are as committed as ever and our solidarity is increasing," Croteau said.

"Steelworkers are sending a clear message to this employer that support for our members will continue to grow. Our members at CEZinc will see the extent to which Steelworkers throughout Canada stand by them and are always ready to support them, all the way."

The strike at the CEZinc refinery, southwest of Montreal, began on Feb. 12 this year, with members of Steelworkers Local 6486 taking a stand for the next generation of workers. CEZinc provoked the dispute by demanding concessions, in particular an attack on the workers' pension plan, even though the plan is overfunded.

With the dispute entering its eighth month, Steelworkers locals across the country are being

Campaign launched to support USW families in CEZinc dispute

encouraged to contribute to the Adopt-a-Striker campaign to support Local 6486 members and their families. Through an ongoing donation, a USW local can support a striker's family for the duration of the dispute.

The CEZinc refinery is operated by Noranda Income Fund, of which global resource giant Glencore is the largest shareholder. Since the strike began CEZinc has been cited twice by Quebec's Ministry of Labour for violating the province's anti-scab law, which prohibits the use of replacement workers during labour disputes.

The USW also has launched a global campaign to expose Glencore's role in prolonging the dispute and rejecting meaningful negotiations to achieve a fair contract.

"With the support and solidarity of Steelworkers across the country, our members are determined not to give up the fight to preserve their working conditions and pensions for future generations," Croteau said.

USW locals can support the Adopt-a-Striker campaign by sending donations to Local 6486, P.O. Box 26, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Quebec, J6S 4V5. Cheques should be made payable to "Les Métallurgistes Unis, Fonds de grève SL 6486." ■



Picket line pizza

With ingredients donated by a local business, Steelworkers Local 6486 member Martin Godin prepares pizza for fellow strikers at the CEZinc refinery in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Que. The strikers have received generous donations from community businesses and residents since the dispute began in February.



Les Métallos au sein de nos collectivités

Métallos! Nous sommes très fiers de tout ce que vous accomplissez à vos lieux de travail et pour vos collectivités. Dites-nous ce que vous faites pour rassembler votre collectivité. Utilisez #metallosontla sur Facebook ou Twitter ou envoyez votre histoire à www.metallos.ca/metallosontla



USW Local 1-207 presented \$33,000 from the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, Alberta unions and the Alberta Federation of Labour to the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation towards building a women's shelter in Morinville, Alta.

La section locale 1-207 présente un don de 33 000 \$ du Fonds humanitaire, de la fédération des travailleurs de l'Alberta et d'autres syndicats à la fondation Jessica Martel en vue de la construction d'un refuge pour femmes à Morinville (Alb.).

Steelworkers In Our Communities

Steelworkers! We're so proud of all you do in your work-places and for your communities. Share your story. Tell us what you are doing to bring your community together. Use #USWCares on Facebook or Twitter or submit your story at www.usw.ca/uswcares.

Locals 7619 and 1-417 hosted solidarity barbecues in Kamloops and Ashcroft, B.C., for wildfire evacuees and first-responders.
Les SL 7619 et 1-417 ont organisé des barbecues pour les personnes évacuées et les premiers répondants de Kamloops et d'Ashcroft.





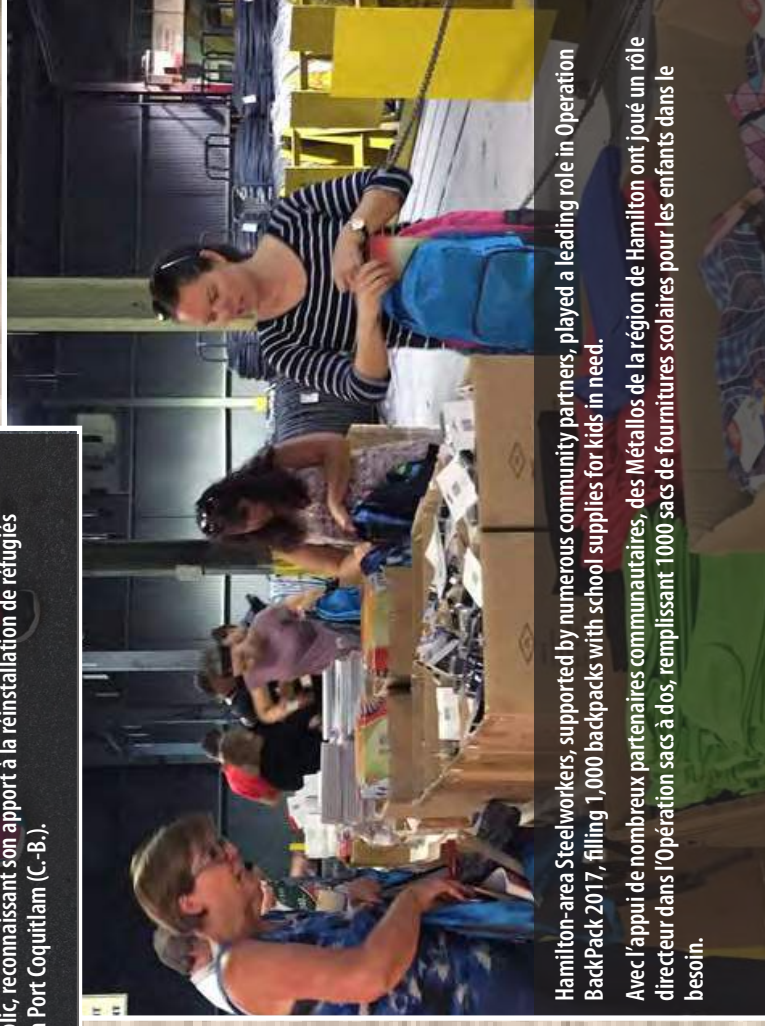
Congratulations to Nancy McCurrach, from TWU, USW National Local 1944! Nancy was recognized with a top honour for public service from the Jefferson Awards Foundation for her work helping Syrian and Turkish refugees resettle in Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Félicitations à Nancy McCurrach de la SL 1944, récipiendaire du prix Jefferson pour service public, reconnaissant son apport à la réinstallation de réfugiés syriens et turcs à Port Coquitlam (C.-B.).



USW Local 1-1937 Women's Committee raised \$1,270 for the Grace House at the Loggers Sports event in Powell River, B.C.

Le Comité de la condition féminine de la SL 1-1937 a recueilli 1270 \$ pour la maison de transition Grace House à Powell River (C.-B.).



Hamilton-area Steelworkers, supported by numerous community partners, played a leading role in Operation BackPack 2017, filling 1,000 backpacks with school supplies for kids in need.

Avec l'appui de nombreux partenaires communautaires, des Métallos de la région de Hamilton ont joué un rôle directeur dans l'Opération sacs à dos, remplissant 1000 sacs de fournitures scolaires pour les enfants dans le besoin.

Garden of Giving: NextGen and Women of Steel members in Thunder Bay teamed up with USW Local 650 and United Steelworkers Local 1-2010 and the Thunder Bay Regional Food Distribution Association to grow fresh produce for Northwestern Ontario families in need.

Des membres de la Prochaine génération et des Femmes d'acier à Thunder Bay ont fait équipe avec les SL 650 et 1-2010 et une association de distribution alimentaire pour cultiver des fruits et légumes destinés aux familles nécessiteuses.