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A year ago, USW National Director Ken Neumann visited Bangladesh. Two years since the tragedy and many brands have yet to pay up.

Bangladesh Anniversary: Time To Pay Up



International clothing brands are failing thousands of injured workers and the families of those who were

killed in the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh two years ago.

On the first anniversary of the tragedy, I visited the site where 1,138 garment factory workers were killed and 2,000 more injured.

I was profoundly moved and humbled to meet the survivors and families of the victims, hear of their ongoing struggles and unimaginable grief. It's impossible to ignore their pain and suffering.

The USW joined the international call for clothing brands to fill the gap in compensation for victims

Two years after the tragedy, the Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund requires millions more dollars to deliver needed compensation to the over 5,000 people with eligible claims.

A number of global brands with links to the Rana Plaza factories have refused to provide adequate payments into the fund. Amongst the worst offenders is Benetton, which has yet to pay a penny into the fund. Others, including Walmart, Mango and The Children's Place, have been singled out for making donations that fall far short of expectations.

Thanks to pressure from Steelworkers and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), The Children's Place increased its token contribution by \$2 million and convened a conference call with other retailers to get commitments

for additional contributions. Our solidarity efforts have made a difference.

IndustriALL, UNI Global Union and the Clean Clothes Campaign believe all brands sourcing clothes from Bangladesh – not only those connected to Rana Plaza – should pay compensation into the fund.

Even though we are a world away from the tragedy, we can still help bring justice and fairness to those who are suffering. We can use our collective strength to support the international fight for compensation, safety, improved wages and working conditions for garment workers in Bangladesh.

In solidarity,

Ken Neumann

Ken Neumann
National Director



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UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
 MÉTALLOS

Historic NDP Majority in Alberta

Orange is the new blue in Alberta, where Rachel Notley's New Democrats have made history with the province's first-ever NDP majority government.

"Steelworkers congratulate Rachel Notley, a Woman of Steel, and her team for leading the way and showing us an NDP government is possible," said USW National Director Ken Neumann. "This victory shows that you can vote out Conservatives by voting NDP."

Along with Premier-elect Notley, Shaye Anderson, a member of TWU-USW Local 1944, has been elected NDP MLA for Leduc-Beaumont. Congratulations, Shaye!



Go Rachel! USW National Director Ken Neumann and District 3 Steelworkers.

Steelworkers are talking about the election because Steelworkers make a difference when we vote.

We have a chance to reverse the damage Stephen Harper has done by electing Tom Mulcair as Prime Minister as part of an NDP government that will be on the side of working people.

All Steelworkers and union members can help make an NDP government a reality. By motivating our members to think about the election, learn about the issues and decide to vote, more union members take part in elections. Research from the Canadian Labour

Congress (CLC) confirms that our members appreciate the information that we provide them about the candidates, parties and issues.

Prior to the Conservatives, it was the Liberals that repeatedly failed to stand up for workers. Liberals are the original culprits to cut Employment Insurance. Recently, Liberals offered blank-cheque support for the Conservative secret police Bill C-51. Voting Liberal to defeat Stephen Harper will not put us further ahead.

The NDP is proposing policies working people support. Unions and union activists believe in fairness for all – NDP proposals will deliver fairness.

NDP Proposes Fairness

- Only the NDP is proposing a \$15 federal minimum wage that's fair. No one should work full time and still fall below the poverty line. Only the NDP is proposing a \$15-a-day affordable childcare plan that provides fairness for families.
- Only the NDP will close CEO tax loopholes and use the proceeds to lift children out of poverty. It's about time.
- Only the NDP will restore retirement age to 65 and enhance the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) for fairness for seniors.
- Only the NDP is proposing to abolish the unelected, unaccountable Senate.
- The NDP will restore health care funding by cancelling the Conservatives' \$36 billion in cuts. ■



Our Union @ Work:

Western Canada Unites at D3 Conference

More than 250 USW members from Western Canada came together at the District 3 Conference in Edmonton. District 3 Director Stephen Hunt kicked off the conference with a review of recent challenges and victories including a video report showcasing the work of the membership on health and safety, Stop The Killing, exposing the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and most recently, the USW petition for a public inquiry into the deadly B.C. sawmill explosions.

Just days before winning a historic majority government in Alberta, NDP Leader Rachel Notley, a former Steelworker, brought her campaign's excitement to the conference.

Steelworkers warmly welcomed TWU-USW Local 1944 members into the ranks and heard from



Alberta's new Premier Rachel Notley, a former Steelworker, with USW District 3 Director Stephen Hunt and Lee Riggs, TWU-USW Local 1944 President.

Lee Riggs, Local President, on the telecommunications sector.

USW Local 2009's Doug Tingley received the Outstanding Service Award recognizing his leadership and service with his local, with the NDP, as a volunteer in the community and fundraising

to support people affected by disasters in the Philippines and Pakistan.

USW District 3 continues to bring members together through our work on health and safety, justice, jobs and building strong communities. ■

Sign the Petition: Public Inquiry Now!

The USW has launched an online petition calling for an inquiry into the 2012 B.C. sawmill explosions that killed four workers and injured many more. In April, the USW withdrew from the coroner's inquest into the Lakeland Mills explosion in Prince George, B.C., after hearing further evidence that WorksafeBC had bungled its investigation. The RCMP and B.C. Safety Authority also produced failed investigations, as they relied on WorksafeBC's flawed work.

The USW joins family members, First Nations and the larger community in calling for a public inquiry. What caused the explosion? Why did the policies and practices that are supposed to protect workers fail to do so? Why were the investigations so badly botched?

WorkSafeBC declared the accident preventable, but no one has been charged with criminal negligence for the killings. Sign the petition for a public inquiry!

www.usw.ca/inquiry



Photo: Brent Braaten, Prince George Citizen

Mark Your Calendars! USW Events



JUNE 7-12

USW District 3 Summer School
Kimberley, B.C.



JUNE 30

USW Scholarships Deadline
www.usw.ca/scholarships



JULY 12-17

CLC Ontario:
Women of Steel Leadership Course
Port Elgin, Ont.



JULY 20-21

National Consultation Workshop for
Aboriginal Steelworkers
Winnipeg
www.usw.ca/winnipeg



AUGUST 16-20

USW District 6 Conference
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
www.usw.ca/d6conf



NOVEMBER 1-4

USW National Women's Conference
Vancouver
www.usw.ca/women2015



NOVEMBER 18-20

USW District 5 Annual Assembly
Rivière-du-Loup, Que.

www.usw.ca/conferences

Beer Can Boycott Goes National

Unions from coast to coast to coast have joined a beer can boycott to support Steelworkers Local 9176 members on strike against union-busting multinational Crown Holdings.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), representing 54 unions with more than three million members nationwide, has endorsed the boycott and is urging all beer drinkers to buy bottles, not scab cans.

USW Local 9176 members have been on strike for 20 months at Crown Holdings' Toronto factory as the U.S.-based manufacturing giant runs the plant with scabs and tries to break the union rather than negotiate a fair deal.

Crown provoked the strike in September 2013 by demanding massive concessions from the workers, despite huge profits and recognizing the Toronto factory as its top plant in North America.

USW members have responded with a strategic campaign including the beer can boycott, which has spawned a website and days of action at beer and liquor stores in dozens of communities.

Beer cans also are being boycotted at university pubs, with student federations supporting the strikers by refusing to stock Crown's scab cans in their campus pubs. They're also using USW-designed coasters advising customers that, "your beer bottle is defending good jobs and fighting corporate greed."

www.BottlesNotCans.ca





U.S. Steel's Absurdity, Backed by Conservative Government

Canadian Steelworkers are confronting outrageous corporate greed and opposition from their own government as they battle in court to protect thousands of workers and pensioners.

U.S. Steel Canada's bankruptcy protection case in Ontario Superior Court has taken absurd turns, with the American parent company basically asking the court to grant it financial relief from... itself.

If the company's request is granted, it could harm thousands of employees and pensioners of U.S. Steel's operations in Hamilton and Nanticoke, Ont. U.S. Steel bought the former Stelco facilities in 2007, under terms of a secret deal with Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

The USW is aggressively challenging U.S. Steel's claims in court. The company is claiming it should have creditor preference

over thousands of retirees, putting their pensions at risk.

"It's absurd that U.S. Steel is asking the court for relief from itself. U.S. Steel caused this mess and shouldn't have creditor preference over pensioners."

— Ken Neumann
USW National Director

The Steelworkers have asked the court to recognize that U.S. Steel, as the sole owner and shareholder of U.S. Steel Canada, exercised total control over its Canadian operations at all times.

U.S. Steel seriously undermined its Canadian operations and incurred debts by locking out workers, shutting down plants and shifting production to the U.S.

"It's absurd that U.S. Steel is asking the court for relief from itself," said USW National Director Ken Neumann. "U.S. Steel caused this mess and shouldn't have creditor preference over pensioners."

The USW also has asked the court to open a secret deal between the federal government and U.S. Steel. Workers and pensioners need access to the agreement's details to ensure fairness in the process, which could result in the sale or restructuring of U.S. Steel Canada's operations.

Rather than support Canadian pensioners and workers, the federal government is actively opposing them in court. ■

Steelworkers were front and centre in April for one of the largest demonstrations for climate action in Canadian history.

Quebec Steelworkers and a busload of USW members from Toronto joined over 25,000 demonstrators on April 11 for the Act on Climate March in Quebec City. Steelworkers across the country also joined rallies held simultaneously in their communities in a nationwide call for meaningful government action on climate change.

The rallies preceded the premiers' summit on climate change in Quebec City, where Steelworkers also made their mark.

Mark Rowlinson, assistant to USW National Director Ken Neumann, delivered a presentation to a forum of environmental, labour and civil society activists.

"Canadians don't have to choose between the environment and the economy. We must choose both," said Rowlinson, presenting on

behalf of Blue Green Canada – the alliance co-founded by the USW.

"The greening of economies is not a drag on growth but rather a new engine of growth, a net generator of decent jobs," he said.

Sadly, the premiers did not agree to take meaningful action. Their summit declaration vaguely stated they would pursue "a transition to a lower-carbon economy through appropriate initiatives."

Steelworkers know the time for fundamental climate action is now. We will continue to take a leading role in advocating for progressive change that creates good jobs and improves our environment at the same time. ■

"The greening of economies is not a drag on growth but rather a new engine of growth, a net generator of decent jobs."

– Mark Rowlinson
Assistant to the USW National Director

**TIME FOR
CLIMATE ACTION
IS NOW**

