



NEWS@6

SUMMER 2019

Marty's Message

Standing Up for Health and Safety

Steelworkers,

THE 2019 DAY OF MOURNING meant a lot to me because I spoke at the ceremony in Kitchener, where I grew up and started my working and union life.

I spoke about the struggles of rubber workers, who are close to my heart as a former rubber worker myself, as a member of USW Local 677 at BF Goodrich.

We won't stop fighting for better worker protections. Better protocols. Better equipment. To be heard in the workplace and on the joint committees.

Occupational illnesses are afflicting former rubber workers at too high a rate later in life. We can't change their exposures, but we can help these workers access the compensation they deserve.

Our union helped organize the Ontario Rubber Workers Project including information sessions so we can continue to document the illnesses and diseases these workers are experiencing now, years after their working lives have concluded.

We believe many of these workers may have been wrongly denied compensation benefits in the past and we are committed to ensuring that they and their surviving family members receive the justice and dignity they deserve.

As we say on the Day of Mourning, Steelworkers don't just mourn for the dead – we also fight for the living.

The USW is known as “the health and safety union” for a reason. We won't stop fighting for better worker protections. Better protocols. Better equipment. To be heard in the workplace and on the joint committees. To exercise our legal right to refuse unsafe work.

Health and safety issues are at the core of the fight for our members of Local 7085, locked out at the Glencore-owned Brunswick Smelter in Belledune, N.B.

Health and safety tops the list of concerns in bargaining for members of Local 9508 at Vale's Voisey's Bay mining operations in Labrador as work moves from open pit to underground.

Read up on these struggles and all the other District 6 news in this hot-off-the press News@6 newsletter.

We will continue to fight for the health and safety of our members – and of all workers. We will work for health and safety through our political action, through servicing and representation, through bargaining – in all that we do. And we won't stop until we've changed the world.

Marty Warren
USW District 6 Director



Community Rallies to Support Brunswick

FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS, business owners and municipal leaders were on hand in Belledune, N.B., on June 4 for a rousing demonstration of community solidarity with Steelworkers locked out of their jobs at the Brunswick Smelter.



USW Local 7085 executive members Kevin Furlotte, centre, Ricky Richard, background centre, and staff representative Carla Thibodeau, right, brought the union's concerns to Glencore's annual shareholders' meeting in May.

"It's a great boost to our morale to see this support from our communities," said Bart Dempsey, President of USW Local 7085, representing the 280 workers locked out since April 24 by multinational giant Glencore, which owns the Brunswick Smelter.

"People recognize what's at stake and that this is a fight that has been provoked by Glencore management," Dempsey said.

"Together, the community is sending a message to Glencore that workers need decent working conditions, with strong health and safety protections, so they can count on a dignified retirement at the end of their careers."

Glencore management locked out workers to try to enforce concession demands, particularly attempts to weaken union and health and safety representation and to remove early retirement incentives.

This display of community solidarity sends the message to Glencore management that it is unacceptable to treat workers this way, to be so cavalier about their health and safety and working conditions.

Steelworkers and supporters came from as far away as Toronto to attend the June 4 community rally at the Belledune Recreation Centre.

Waving signs stating, "End the Lockout Now" and "We Support Our Locked-Out Steelworkers," supporters walked the smelter picket line, then rallied at the recreation centre for speeches and a community barbecue with music and children's activities.

"This display of community solidarity sends the message to Glencore management that it is unacceptable to treat workers this way, to be so cavalier about their health and safety and working conditions," said USW District 6 Director Marty Warren.



Black Smelter Workers



In May, a Local 7085 delegation travelled to Switzerland to bring the union's concerns to Glencore's annual shareholders' meeting.

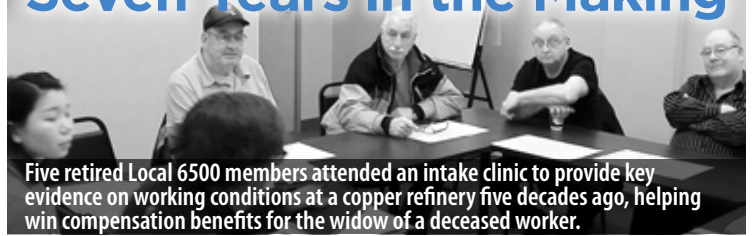


The delegation met with Glencore executives and shared numerous examples of a broken labour-relations culture at the Brunswick Smelter, including management harassment and serious health and safety incidents and concerns.

"Glencore's corporate leadership says it is committed to progressive labour relations and a safe workplace, however, our members are still waiting for evidence of this commitment," Warren noted.

"Rather than picking a fight with its workers, Glencore can demonstrate goodwill by returning to the bargaining table and negotiating a fair settlement to end the lockout." ■

A Widow's Victory, Seven Years in the Making



Five retired Local 6500 members attended an intake clinic to provide key evidence on working conditions at a copper refinery five decades ago, helping win compensation benefits for the widow of a deceased worker.

IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS, but the persistence of USW Local 6500 has paid off with a huge victory awarding benefits to a deceased member's widow.

In January 2012, Local 6500 in Sudbury initiated a workers' compensation claim for a retired member, 'Y.L.' who was suffering from lung cancer. Y.L. worked for 30 years, dating back to the 1960s, in the hazardous environment of a copper refinery at Inco Ltd. (now Vale).

Y.L. died less than four months after his compensation claim was filed. Ultimately, the claim was denied by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), but the union continued to fight for justice for Y.L. and his wife of 56 years.

The union faced daunting hurdles in appealing the decision – challenges that would overwhelm a worker or family without such representation, says J.P. Mrochek, Local 6500's WSIB Worker Representative.

"We hear that often from retirees and widows who say, 'What would we do without the union? We'd be lost without you fighting for us.' But that's what we do, as a union," Mrochek says.

Winning the appeal at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT) was the result of a remarkable collaboration among the union, the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW) and – critically – evidence from a group of five retirees who were co-workers of Y.L. at the Sudbury copper refinery five decades ago.

The union organized a 'mini intake clinic' where an occupational hygienist from OHCOW heard crucial evidence from the five retired refinery workers on the working conditions and exposures that Y.L. endured, particularly from the mid-1960s to early-1970s.

OHCOW produced a report that became key evidence in the appeal process and in February of this year – seven years after Y.L.'s claim – the tribunal overturned the original decision and allowed the claim. The decision is expected to lead to WSIB approval in the near future of retroactive benefits for Y.L.'s widow.

"This victory shows the power of intake clinics, the importance of capturing the knowledge of workers and retirees, and the value of the collaboration between the Steelworkers and OHCOW," said Local 6500 President Nick Larochelle. ■



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh defending workers in the steel and aluminum fight at a media scrum on Parliament Hill.

Vote for Those on Our Side

Federal Election 2019 – Mon., Oct. 21

FEDERAL ELECTIONS are important because they're a chance for Steelworkers to make the connection between union activism and politics.

District 6 political action is particularly important in the coming election, as two of the areas where the NDP can win back some seats are in Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

This election is not about voting against something; it's about voting for the party that's on our side.

Justin Trudeau and the Liberals have broken many key promises: abandoned electoral reform, signed bad trade agreements, no action to end pension theft, bungled Indigenous rights recognition, no national housing strategy (until after the election). The list goes on.

We know that the Conservatives are the party for the rich and large corporations.

Meanwhile, the Green Party is no friend of workers either. Worker training is absent from its recently released action plan.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh has shown he is on our side. He has stood up for workers consistently and isn't afraid to defend worker and union rights.

Jagmeet Singh has stood up for workers consistently and isn't afraid to defend worker and union rights.

The NDP will be campaigning on issues important to Steelworkers. Help spread the word that the NDP is on our side:

- Putting Retirees First
- Universal Pharmacare
- Housing Affordability
- Better Wages and Creating Good Jobs
- Environmental Policy that Works for Workers

Remember that the NDP was the only party that categorically stated it would

refuse to ratify the new USMCA unless the steel and aluminum tariffs were lifted.

Steelworkers are running as NDP candidates: USW Local 1005's Dennis Van Meer is the nominated NDP candidate in St. Catharines. Scott Duvall is running for re-election in Hamilton Mountain. We look forward to sharing more names of Steelworkers NDP candidates as our members step up to run.

Steelworkers Vote schools will be held in September and October and applications are available now at www.usw.ca/steelworkersvote.

Please encourage and provide support from your local union for USW activists, especially NextGen members who want to attend.

Order Steelworkers Vote materials for distribution to members in your workplaces once they are available.

We have power when we vote. We can make a difference and help elect NDP politicians who are on our side. ■

www.usw.ca/steelworkersvote

JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, a group of District 6 activists answered the call to come to Ottawa and join other USW members from across Canada to lobby politicians on retirement security through reforms to Canada's bankruptcy and insolvency laws.

Since then, they have spent a total of six weeks – in three, two-week periods – calling MPs and senators, setting up meetings and making the union's case for supporting two private members' bills that remain before the House of Commons.

One bill was introduced by the NDP MP for Hamilton Mountain, former USW Local 5328 President Scott Duvall. The other bill was sponsored by Marilène Gill, a Bloc Québécois MP representing Manicouagan, Que.

Both are strong bills aimed at reforming the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA)

to give priority to claims by workers arising out of an underfunded pension plan and the elimination of benefits to retirees.

"I didn't know what to expect when I agreed to be a lobbyist," says Dan Ripley from Local 4820. "But what I have gained are tools and knowledge that will make me a stronger advocate."

Shannon Horner is from Local 8782, one of the Stelco locals whose members and retirees were affected by CCAA proceedings that cut pensions and benefits.

"Politicians need to be more accessible," she says. "Some seem to want to do the right thing but they are confined by their own party. What I have learned doing this work applies

to working within my local and on the labour council. It's all political."

There has been no support from the Trudeau Liberals for either of these bills. Nor has the substance of the bills been placed as a government bill. Without support from the majority Liberals, progress on retirement security will remain stalled.

MP Scott Duvall is grateful for USW support of his mission to end pension theft.

"Nothing has made me prouder as an MP than the support I have received from my USW sisters and brothers," Duvall said in an NDP caucus meeting attended by activists during their final week of lobbying on May 8.

"I am completely motivated to get people elected who share our beliefs," says Ron Wells, an executive member of Local 1005. ■



Lobbying for Pension Protection

University Staff Approve New Innovative, Secure Pension Plan

MEMBERS OF USW LOCALS at the University of Toronto, the University of Guelph and Queen's University are one step closer to improved retirement security by voting in favour of a multi-university pension plan (UPP).

The proposed UPP is a jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP) that includes six labour groups – the three USW-represented staff unions and three faculty associations at the universities.

The USW is the largest union at each of the universities, accounting for approximately one-third of the 18,000 people covered by the proposed plan.

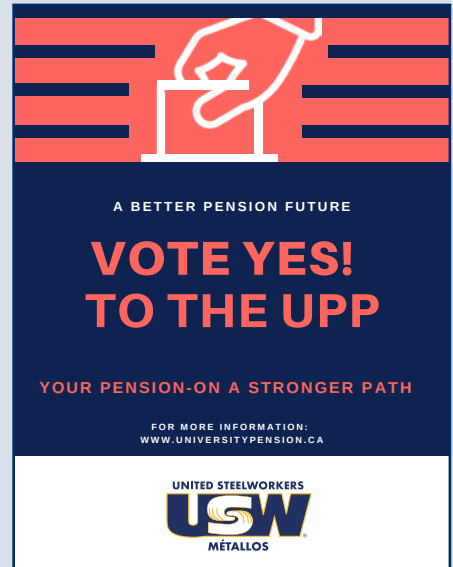
USW Locals 1998 (University of Toronto), 4120 (University of Guelph) and 2010 (Queen's University) worked collaboratively with their respective faculty groups to initiate the new plan, which is the product of many years of vigorous negotiations with the university administrations.

The JSPP model provides employee groups with joint governance over the new plan.

Voting by the remaining employee groups and retired members will be complete by the end of June.

"It shows what can be achieved when bargaining agents representing different groups of employees work together and innovate for the common good of our members' retirement security," said Alex McKinnon, Research Department Leader with the USW and UPP founding Co-Chair.

More information on the proposed plan is available on the University Pension Plan website, www.universitypension.ca.



"With their strong support for this new defined benefit pension plan, our members have taken a step forward for long-term retirement security. We value the improved stability of this plan that has been designed specifically for those who work in the university sector."

– Kelly J. Orser, President, USW Local 2010 representing staff at Queen's University

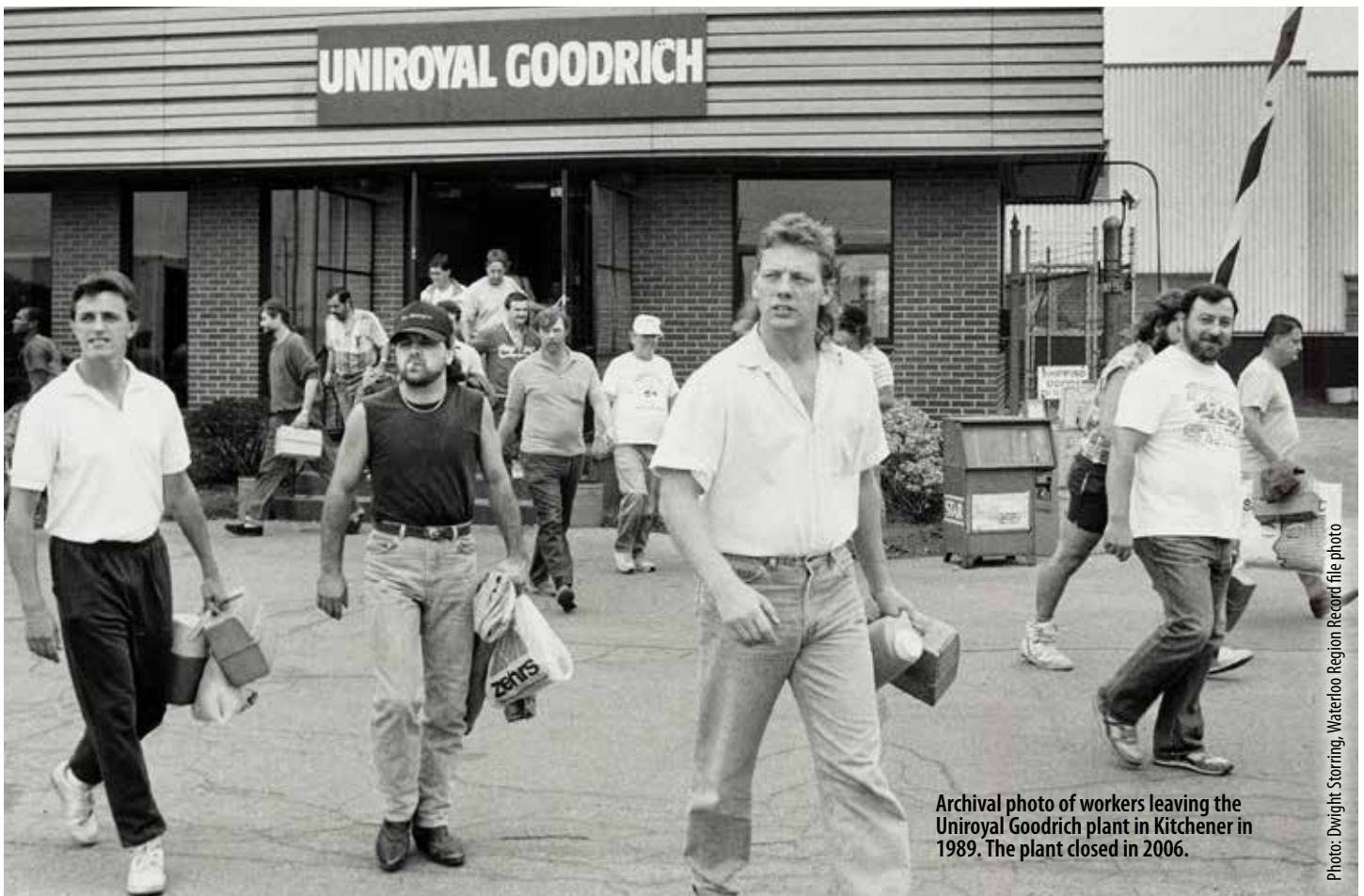
"This approval vote by our members is a vote of confidence in our process as well as the outcome. Not only do our university staff keep a defined benefit pension, they gain a say in the governance, which was missing in the previous structure."

– Liz Cherry, President, USW Local 4120 representing staff at the University of Guelph



"Transparent communication and ongoing dialogue with members were key to ensuring that members understood the differences between single-university plans and the new multi-university joint sponsorship model."

– Colleen Burke, President, USW Local 1998 representing staff at the University of Toronto



Archival photo of workers leaving the Uniroyal Goodrich plant in Kitchener in 1989. The plant closed in 2006.

Photo: Dwight Storrington, Waterloo Region Record file photo

Rubber Workers Seek Justice

A STEELWORKERS-SUPPORTED initiative in Ontario has led to a massive review of occupational disease claims from former rubber workers and surviving family members.

The USW is a founding partner of the Ontario Rubber Workers Project that is advocating for justice for hundreds of former workers diagnosed with cancers and other illnesses, as well as family members of deceased workers.

After months of advocacy by the USW and our allies, Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) confirmed earlier this year that it would review more than 300 previously denied claims submitted by rubber workers, as far back as 2002.

In March, the Ontario Rubber Workers Project held a two-day information session in Kitchener – once Canada's rubber capital – for former workers and family members to submit claims and

learn about the review process.

The response surpassed organizers' expectations, with more than 150 new claims opened for former workers and surviving family members. Additional claims have continued to be accepted in the ensuing weeks.

"This is a demonstration of the scope of this critical issue. We know that many rubber workers have died from workplace exposures and many others are struggling with cancers and other occupational diseases," said USW District 6 Director Marty Warren, a former tire builder in Kitchener.

"We believe many of these workers may have been wrongly denied compensation benefits in the past and we are committed to ensuring that they and their surviving family members receive the justice and dignity they deserve," Warren said.

USW District 6, through its Injured Workers Assistance Program, is providing advocacy and resources to help new claimants navigate the process, working closely with Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW).

The Ontario Rubber Workers Project is a collective of retired rubber workers, their families, the USW, the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), OHCOW, the Office of the Worker Adviser (OWA) and the Rubber Town Workers Alliance Group.

Gord Assman, President of SOAR Chapter 80, and fellow SOAR member Ray Hart have been leading voices in the Rubber Town Workers Alliance Group that is supporting and advocating for retired rubber workers and their families. ■

www.rubberworkersproject.ca

Official Opposition **NDP** calls out Doug Ford's li

FROM DAY ONE, it's Andrea Horwath and the 40-strong NDP Official Opposition who have been standing up to Doug Ford and his Conservative government.

Even before Ford was sworn in as Premier last year, Horwath wrote to Ford to get details on his hiring freeze because Ontario families deserved to know the impacts the freeze would have on health care, education, social services and first responders.

Keeping track of Ford's attacks is challenging, as the Premier's office refuses to issue a schedule, and the government relies on its own in-house media outlet rather than giving interviews to reporters.

It was Horwath and the NDP that uncovered Ford's plans for a massive

restructuring of the health-care system, that could pave the way to privatization.

The NDP is standing up to Ford's mean-spirited attacks on the families of children with autism, the public health cuts, the cuts to education, the transit takeover, downloaded services that will lead to cuts at the municipal level and more.

Labour Mobilizes

The labour movement is mobilizing against the attacks, alongside our partner in politics, the NDP.

In March, workers from across the province including Steelworkers attended the Ontario Federation of Labour's Power of Many conference in Toronto to strategize and mobilize for

our collective fight against the government's draconian policies.

At that event, Horwath reiterated the NDP's solidarity with labour. "What would our province be like if labour had a partner in government that shared your vision? New Democrats know who we are – we are labour and labour is us. We are the resistance and we will push back," she said.

Horwath has five Steelworkers in her caucus including Jamie West, the MPP for Sudbury and the Official Opposition Labour Critic.

"I'm proud to be from the Steelworkers and a member of the Ontario NDP Caucus – two great organizations that care about working families," said West.



es and attacks

Get ready for more political activities and opportunities to get involved. We must continue to raise our voices.

“Ford’s attacks and cuts hurt people directly,” said USW District 6 Director Marty Warren. “This is not a government for the people. Cuts to funding of health and safety programs and occupational disease prevention will cause harm. Working people are not fooled by buck-a-beer promises when our health and safety on the job is compromised,” he said.

Opposition is having an effect. Ford’s government has postponed the first year of cuts to public health and child care delivered by municipalities. It backtracked on some of its cuts to francophone services after a huge public outcry early in its mandate. It also

backed down on a section of omnibus legislation that would have led to development in the protected Greenbelt.

The cuts are so wide-ranging and the attacks are so broad and frequent, people who have never been political before are looking for ways to get involved. Labour must be there to welcome and include these new activists.

Find out about and attend the organizing meetings, the rallies, the sit-ins and the training. Bring solidarity to the fight. Show your support to the Official Opposition NDP MPPs who are exposing the disastrous policies, leading the fightback and who must be our party of choice to replace Doug Ford and the Conservatives in the next election. ■

Ford’s First Cuts and Attacks

- Cancelled programs funded by the \$2.9 billion in revenues from the cap-and-trade program – including school and social housing repairs as well as rebates for green energy retrofits
- Eliminated key equity ministries – the ministries responsible for the Anti-Racism Directorate, for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, for Early Years and Child Care and for the Status of Women
- Instituted a hiring freeze across the broader public sector with the exception of “essential frontline workers”
- Introduced a “snitch line” on education workers, targeting those using the updated health curriculum
- Declared a \$15-billion deficit in a guise to cut and privatize public services
- Scrapped worker protections including a legislated minimum wage increase, equal pay for equal work, access to workplace information, two paid sick days



Fight Ford!

- Stay on top of the issues with the OFL’s Ford Tracker at www.ofl.ca.
- Get active with your local, labour council or USW area council.
- Connect with your nearest NDP MPP: www.ontariondp.ca

Members of the District 6 Political Action Committee in the halls of the Ontario Legislature with Official Opposition Leader Andrea Horwath and members of the NDP Caucus.

BARGAINING SUCCESSES



Timmins Members Win Strong First Contract

Newly organized Steelworkers at INEOS Calabrian Corporation in Timmins negotiated a first contract with hourly wages rising to \$43.51 for operating engineers and \$44.78 for maintenance workers. The two-year agreement improves benefits and insurance coverage, premiums, statutory holiday pay and provisions on overtime and professional licensing and exams. The company produces sulfur dioxide for industrial applications.



Lumber Workers Improve, Wages, Vacation, Language

Members of Local 8748, Unit 23, ratified a three-year collective agreement at Soo Mill and Lumber Company, a lumber and hardware store and wooden truss manufacturer in Sault Ste. Marie. The agreement provides total wage increases of 4.75%, mental health language, union orientation provisions and improved vacation entitlement.



Retirement Home Employees Strengthen Contracts

Members of separate bargaining units of Local 6946, working at two retirement homes in Pembroke, made gains in recent contract settlements. Workers at Carefor Health and Community Services reached a three-year agreement with 2% annual wage hikes, an increase in starting wage rates, mental health and domestic violence leave and an increase in the employer's share of benefit premiums. Employees of Chartwell Heritage Manor reached a two-year deal with 2% annual wage increases, improved vision care, vacation entitlement and uniform allowance, mental health and domestic violence leave, integration of the Steelworkers Pension Plan and the addition of receptionists and drivers to coverage by the collective agreement.



Best Deal in Memory for Toronto Hotel Workers

Steelworkers at the Westin Toronto Airport Hotel negotiated one of the best contracts in recent memory, a four-year agreement providing total wage increases of 14.5% including an up-front 6% hike. Gains include a new retirement allowance ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000, domestic violence leave and improved language for housekeeping staff.



Ontario Airports Screeners Make Gains

Security screeners at regional airports in Ontario (Kingston, Mount Hope, Sarnia, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Waterloo, Windsor), employed by GardaWorld, negotiated a four-year agreement with total wage increases of 7.25% and an immediate bonus of \$1,200 for full-time workers and \$600 for part-timers. The agreement improves benefits and contract language on issues including gender expression and identity, technological change, domestic violence language and mental health leave.



Woodworkers Shore Up Three-Year Contract

Annual wage hikes of 2.3%, special adjustments for several classifications and higher start rates are among gains in a three-year agreement ratified by Local 6946 members at Pastway Planing, a wood milling and treatment operation in Combermere, Ont. Improvements also were achieved on vacation entitlement for senior employees, job-posting language, seniority provisions for shift assignments, boots and clothing allowances, retirement savings contributions and mental health and domestic violence language.



USW Family and Community Education Fund

OUR UNION BELIEVES in the power of education, and we're proud of the USW Education Program for developing stewards, health and safety reps, local union leaders and other key activists.

We want to extend the power of education to Steelworker families, our communities and even deeper into our membership to engage new and young activists too.

The USW Family and Community Education Fund has supported projects such as Steelworkers Summer, Family Education Days and NextGen subsidies.

Now the fund is expanding to support more activities at the local, district

and national levels in four theme areas: supporting Steelworker families, promoting USW in the community, supporting and engaging young activists, and supporting and engaging new activists.

Some examples of projects the fund could support in these areas include:

- Providing child care for members while attending union events.
- Building partnerships with community groups that advocate for unemployed workers, injured workers, workers newly arrived from other countries and so on.

- NextGen programming at the district and national levels.
- Projects led by a local union women's committee or human rights committee.

What Does this Mean for My Local?

- **Develop a project.** Your local, women's committee, human rights committee, district, area or regional council could develop a project. Work with your District Education Co-ordinator on the details for seeking financial support from the fund.
- **Join the fund!** If your USW local is not already a contributor, mobilize your members to approve joining.
- **Until June 30, 2020:** Any USW local can develop project ideas and any Steelworker can take part in fund activities.
- **As of July 1, 2020:** Local unions must have joined the fund as contributors to apply for project funding.

Get ideas for projects and learn more at www.usw.ca/FCEF, or contact fund co-ordinator Eric Delparte at fcef@usw.ca. ■

Building Our Union Through Mentorship

LAST FALL, DISTRICT 6 launched an innovative program to share and develop leadership in our union – the District 6 Mentorship Program.

A volunteer-based program, “learners” and “mentors” applied to take part in the program.

In March, 30 activists from Thunder Bay to Fredericton came together in Orillia for a successful two-day orientation session.

The first program of its kind in the district, learners and mentors were paired based on learners’ growth areas and mentors’ experience.

“I appreciate having a member who is not from my local who has a different set of eyes and different ways of doing things.”

– Feedback from a Learner

Through monthly conversations over the next year, learners will gain experience and support for addressing issues arising in their locals and workplaces. The program aims to ensure that mentors’ valuable experience gets



shared and passed on.

Following the first pilot year of the program, participants can offer feedback on their experiences and suggest improvements for what the district hopes will be an ongoing program. ■

www.usw.ca/d6mentoring



DISTRICT 6 News from the Locals

Shelter Closure End of an Era for 2020 Unit



For posterity, staff and management of the Salvation Army Sudbury New Life Centre gathered for a group photo before the centre closed its doors on May 10. Staff at the centre were members of USW Local 2020.

ELEVEN STEELWORKERS are looking for new jobs after the Salvation Army Sudbury New Life Centre closed its doors on May 10.

District 6 honours and recognizes the hard work and dedication of these members, some with over 20 years of service, as they pursue the next chapter in their working lives.

The men's shelter supported and temporarily housed some of the community's most vulnerable.

It's challenging but rewarding work to serve and support those who are at difficult points in their lives – suffering with addictions, mental health issues, poverty and homelessness.

Workers at the New Life Centre joined our union in 1999, 20 years ago. The union-management relationship was a positive one. The last collective agreement included another round of decent wage increases. But with the closure, Staff Rep Lynne Descary found herself negotiating severance instead.

Finances are the main culprit in the closure: city funding covered some of the centre's operations, but with the city's focus on "housing first" policies combined with an aging building needing more than the Salvation Army could manage in repairs, the agency made the difficult decision to close the site.

The meeting announcing the closure was a tearful one for employer and members alike, given the loss it would mean for clients and the community.

District 6 honours and recognizes the hard work and dedication of these members, some with over 20 years of service, as they pursue the next chapter in their working lives.

Members of the same unit working at the Salvation Army's Cedar Place shelter for women, parents and children, are not affected by New Life's closing. ■

DISTRICT 6 News from the Locals



Stratford Local Fights for Deceased Member's Family

WHEN AN INJURED STEELWORKER in Stratford, Ont., was denied CPP disability benefits, he turned to his union – USW Local 168, which represents employees at Cooper Standard Automotive.

Local 168 pursued the case – even after the injured worker died – and won retroactive benefits for the member's family.

The case dated back to 2015, when the member's application for CPP disability benefits was denied. Local 168 enlisted the expertise of retired USW Staff Rep Doug Brown to argue the appeal before the federal Social Security Tribunal.

A hearing was scheduled for May 2018, but the member died suddenly a few weeks earlier, putting the appeal on hold. The union decided to continue with the appeal and following a new hearing earlier this year, won three years of retroactive benefits for the member's family.

"Without a strong union like the USW to represent them, these cases are tough for most workers, and often they don't go anywhere," Brown said. ■



Jefferson Award Winner Philip Stewart-Burgoyne

The 2018 Jefferson Awards recognized USW Local 8327's Philip Stewart-Burgoyne from District 6 for his remarkable community and union volunteer work. Phil volunteers and works with his Ottawa local to raise funds for three local charities: the Pavilion Food Bank, Sobriety House and a local homeless shelter (The Mission). Proud to be union, Phil also supports his local at rallies and events.



Steelworker members from Locals 7536, 5296 and 9042 from the Peel/Mississauga area battled and had fun in the 2019 USW Basketball Classic.



DISTRICT 6 News from the Locals

USW Heroes Save Lives

TWICE IN RECENT MONTHS courageous Steelworkers in Hamilton have proved being well-trained in first aid and having a defibrillator in the workplace is the difference between life and death.

On the night of Nov. 2, a night shift employee suffered a major heart attack next to his press at the Hamilton A. Raymond Tinnerman manufacturing plant. Fortunately, co-workers Brian Hampson and Mike Ellis were the first on the scene. Acting quickly in the pressure-filled and nerve-wracking situation, Brian and Mike gathered additional responders and called for help. As the co-worker lost a heartbeat and stopped breathing, they retrieved one of the defibrillators on the shop floor and jumped into action. The lead paramedic who arrived on the scene told Brian and Mike: "You definitely saved his life. Without your team's brave work and that defibrillator, he would not be with us."

In the afternoon of Feb. 20, a manager at John Crane Canada was eating lunch at his desk as usual when he

Without your team's brave work and that defibrillator, he would not be with us.

suffered massive and immediate cardiac arrest. He fell back and split his head open. A nearby office worker recognized the situation, ran into the cafeteria and yelled for first aid help. Paul Majecki, aided by Stuart Deli, used their training to respond to the manager. Immediately they used CPR to restart his breathing, but the situation worsened and required a defibrillator. Luckily, in 2007, the workers had fought and won a battle to install a defibrillator in the plant. That defibrillator in the hands of our first responding members saved a life.

Our members have once again proven that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when adequately trained and when proper safety equipment is available. ■



SO! SO! SOLIDARITÉ! District 6 members travelled by bus to Trois-Rivières at the end of May, joining the 5,000-strong Grand Solidarity March to support the 1,030 members of Local 9700 who have been locked out for 17 months. Supporters called on ABI's owners, aluminum giants Alcoa and Rio Tinto, to get back to the table and negotiate a fair deal for the members.

Photo: Daniel Mallette

DISTRICT 6 News from the Locals



Niagara Falls Members Give Back

USW Local 14241, representing members working at Salit Steel in Niagara Falls, are giving back to their community by supporting a program that helps homeless people. The local recently donated 16 new microwave ovens to the St. Vincent de Paul charity. The organization provides the microwaves to homeless adults and families who live in motels and temporary accommodation and who have no way of heating their food. ■



Women's Committees Activated

WITH LOCAL UNION SUPPORT, women across District 6 are initiating or revitalizing their women's committees, thanks to the Women of Steel Committees: Leading Together course, which was revamped in 2017. Successful week-long sessions were well attended in Sault Ste. Marie in December (locals 2724, 8748, 2251 and 9548), and in London in January (locals 9597, 7257, 719, 2699, and 14097). ■

Women of Steel Making Community Connections

THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED USW Women's Committee in Chalk River, Ont., is already making community connections with its activities.

To mark International Women's Day 2019, the committee, which draws members from USW locals 4096 and 1568 – workers at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) – sponsored the fees for 20 participants to attend a Wen-Do women's self-defence class put on by the Women's Sexual Assault Centre in Pembroke, Ont.

After the class, members of the women's committee met with some of the agency staff to further USW's community links.

"We were an independent union for so long. No one had heard of us or knew who we were. USW is such a strong union, so well-known, we want the surrounding community to know about us because Steelworkers make great neighbours," said Paulette Benoit, President of USW Local 4096, representing two USW units of office, clerical and radiation protection personnel.



Women of Steel from locals 4096 and 1569 with a staff member from the Workers' Sexual Assault Centre.

Future activities include a sock drive for Columbus House, a Pembroke residence for youth, and work is underway to bring in the USW's new Equity Advocate training, to provide education, referral and advocacy for members experiencing domestic violence or harassment. ■

Scully Mine Reopens

Steelworkers help bring back good jobs to Labrador West.



Photo: Tacora Resources

Workers install a new burner system for the No. 1 Dryer at Tacora Resources' Scully Mine operations in Wabush.

GOOD STEELWORKER JOBS are returning to Labrador West, with dozens of USW members already hired to work on re-opening the Scully Mine in Wabush.

The Scully Mine restart is the result of the USW's efforts to keep hope alive after the site was shut down in 2014 by Cliffs Natural Resources. The operations subsequently went under CCAA creditor protection.

"When the Scully Mine closed, many people were concerned it would be permanently abandoned," said Marty Warren, USW Director for Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

"We were committed to doing everything we could to help find a buyer for the mine and bring good jobs back to Wabush and Labrador West," Warren said.

It was crucial that Scully Mine employees would be USW members with a solid, Steelworkers collective agreement.

"When a buyer came forward with a serious plan to restart the mine, we made it clear that the Steelworkers

were prepared to be a positive force in a project that would bring new benefits to the community."

In June 2017, the USW reached a new collective agreement with Tacora Resources, the Minnesota-based company that purchased Scully Mine.

"It was crucial that Scully Mine employees would be USW members with a solid, Steelworkers collective agreement," Warren said.

Earlier this spring, Tacora announced its plans to restart the mine were on schedule, with the first extraction of ore expected in June. As of May, about 80 Steelworkers were already working at the site, while Tacora's plan calls for the creation of 300 jobs when full production is reached.

Pension Shortfall Partially Recovered

Meanwhile, former workers and retirees of Cliffs Natural Resources operations in Wabush and Quebec are recovering a significant amount of a pension shortfall linked to the company's bankruptcy protection proceedings.

A court-approved settlement awarded \$18 million of a previously projected \$28-million pension shortfall to pensioners and former workers who were represented by the USW while actively employed. The settlement also provided a payment to compensate pensioners for the loss of health benefits.

Cliffs had not fully funded the pension plan and pensions initially were cut by 21 to 25%. The settlement calls for retirees to receive 92% to 93% of their original pensions. ■