



NEWS@6

WINTER 2016

Steelworkers **ACTIVISM** Brings New Law to Protect Pensioners

The last several months have been incredibly eventful, challenging and rewarding for Steelworkers across District 6, providing many inspiring reminders of why I am so proud of the work of USW members and activists.

This edition of *News@6* features several of these remarkable achievements, such as a grassroots campaign launched by a USW local union activist in Sudbury to defend widows of deceased Steelworkers whose pensions were being slashed dramatically.

The relentless efforts of activist J.P. Mrochek have led to new legislation to close a legal loophole that employers were exploiting in order to cut surviving spouses' pensions. Pensioners across Ontario will benefit from this Steelworker-inspired law.

In August, hundreds of USW members attending our District 6 Conference in Sault Ste. Marie showcased the Steelworkers' tremendous commitment to building strong communities. In the ensuing months, our members have been recognized in communities across Ontario and

Atlantic Canada for the social and economic contributions of their activism within and beyond their workplaces.

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Only a few weeks ago, our national campaign to Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law made headlines when a judge imposed a precedent-setting, 3½-year prison sentence on a construction company manager linked to the deaths of four workers. The sentence is a major boost to the USW campaign for greater enforcement of the Westray Act to hold employers criminally accountable for workplace death and injury.

Our union's unmatched record of political activism was reinforced in the October federal election, with our members more engaged and active than ever before.

While the election did not turn out the way we hoped and worked for, our members participated in Steelworkers Vote schools and volunteered in local campaigns across our district. And we helped elect another Steelworker to Parliament! Scott Duvall, former president of USW locals 3250 and 5328 was elected the NDP MP in Hamilton Mountain.

Steelworkers will continue to be leaders in labour, political and community action in 2016. We are ready to tackle the challenges ahead and to work together for good jobs, for fairness, for stronger communities and a better future.



Marty Warren
USW District 6 Director

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WHAT WE DID Steelworker Days



There were no big demonstrations, no marching in the streets. But last August's District 6 Conference is something that the City of Sault Ste. Marie will not soon forget.

It was Director Marty Warren's first District Conference, and more than 400 delegates joined him in giving back to the community in a historic 'working' conference.

One full day was devoted to nine projects in and around Sault Ste. Marie. From shelters to community kitchens, to care homes, nature trails and more, delegates painted, refurbished, served lunch, distributed kids' backpacks, cleaned trails and partnered with Batchewana and Garden River First Nations to create a patio and firepit (Batchewana) and restore a veterans' monument (Garden River).

"I am proud of what we did in one day," said Warren. "We proved that strong unions build strong communities, and that our members are the kind of people who can be counted on to make the world a better place."

Proclaimed as Steelworker Days in Sault Ste. Marie by City Mayor Christian Provenzano, the August 17-20 event ended with a community barbecue and fireworks, despite an early evening thunderstorm.

Steelworkers Make Great Neighbours artwork by Universal Promotions.

DID LAST SUMMER Days in Sault Ste. Marie



STRONG Union Community

United Steelworkers District 6 Conference • Sault Ste. Marie • August 17 – 20, 2015



The conference took a year to plan, with a dedicated team of Steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie, who contacted local businesses for supplies, built community partnerships and organized all the projects that would later make use of 400 Steelworker delegates from Ontario and Atlantic Canada.

"We pledged that if we couldn't finish the jobs in the one day we set aside that week, we would finish them here

in Sault Ste. Marie once the conference was over," said project manager Dave Pettalia.

"One way or another, that week involved every one of our delegates," said Warren, from a Monday night talent showcase, to making free hot dogs and hamburgers at the community barbecue. "And we still managed to have speeches and honour a number of Steelworkers nominated for their

outstanding service to their own communities, as well as recognizing two great local politicians, Tony Martin and Bud Wildman."

Delegates left Sault Ste. Marie inspired to take up more community projects, and over the last few months, dozens of local unions have reported renewed activism beyond the workplace, with projects from Thunder Bay to St. John's. ■



For Steelworkers, as the coldest time of year approaches, we generate warmth through giving.

We collect funds and donations for women's shelters, hospitals, seniors' homes, organizations that help the homeless and children's charities, and partner with the United Way. We also make donations to local food banks via the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.

For Steelworkers, the act of giving is its own gift – part of what makes our members proud to be Steelworkers.

Here's a roundup of some USW charitable contributions that help make a difference in our communities across District 6.



USW Locals 7940, 9211, 8952 and 8794 donated to food banks in Hawkesbury, L'Original and Vankleek via the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.

- USW Local 9329 donated to charities in Essex, Lakeshore, Woodlea and Tecumseh (near Windsor).
- USW Local 8327 donated to the Ottawa Food Bank via the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.



USW Local 5795's Women's Committee collected donations for local charities and hospitals in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L.

- USW Local 2020 donated to the United Way Sudbury Nipissing and the Kirkland Lake Food Bank.
- Cambridge Steelworkers Area Council raised thousands of dollars for Chalmers Food Bank (Guelph), Waterloo Regional & District Food Bank, Centre Wellington Food Bank (Fergus) and the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank.
- USW Locals 2251, 2724 and 9548 made numerous community donations including to the Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen, United Way, ARCH, Sault Santa Fund, St. Vincent's, Pauline's Place, the Salvation Army, the Children's Comfort Centre (ARCH) and children's meal programs.
- USW Local 1-2010 and the Steelworkers Area Council Women's Committee volunteered at Shelter House in Thunder Bay.



Hamilton Steelworkers Area Council donated \$29,000 to local charities and community organizations.

- Steelworkers Toronto Area Council made donations to local food banks via the Steelworkers Humanity Fund.
- USW in Sudbury made donations totalling \$6,000 to the Sudbury Food Bank, the Elgin St. Mission and the Blue Door Soup Kitchen.
- USW Local 9350 donated \$2,000 to Spruce Hill Lodge in Timmins and helped decorate the retirement home.

Tell us about USW's contributions to your community at www.usw.ca/uswcares. ■

VICTORY

for Steelworkers' Activism

New legislation protects pensions for spouses of workers killed by occupational disease.

A relentless campaign of local Steelworkers' activism has led to new legislation in Ontario to protect pensions for surviving spouses of workers killed by occupational disease.

"It took a few years, but we got it done," says J.P. Mrochek, a compensation officer with USW Local 6500, which represents 2,600 employees at mining giant Vale's Sudbury operations.

Local 6500 waged a four-year

campaign to demand an amendment to Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. The amendment was needed to eliminate an unintended "loophole" in the act that allowed companies to slash the pensions of surviving spouses, Mrochek says.

The issue in question was the legal interpretation of the word 'earnings' in the legislation and how that interpretation affected the calculation of pension benefits.

"The law was in place for many years and there were no problems, until some corporate lawyer noticed this loophole," Mrochek says. "Then companies started to file appeals and they managed to drastically cut widows' pensions."

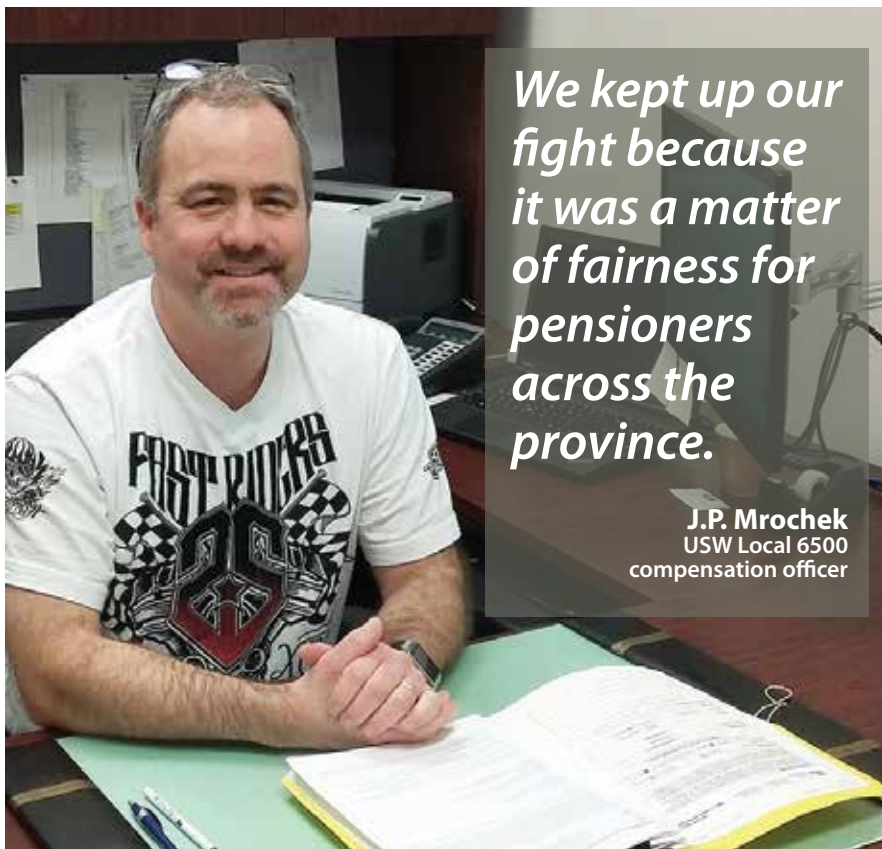
In Sudbury, Vale filed appeals in 2011 to try to reduce the pensions of Steelworkers' widows by as much as 60%. USW Local 6500 launched a public campaign denouncing such tactics and demanding legislative change.

Although Vale ultimately dropped its appeals, "we kept up our fight because it was a matter of fairness for pensioners across the province," Mrochek says.

New Democratic Party MPPs such as France G  linas (Nickel Belt) and Jennifer French (Oshawa) brought the issue to the provincial legislature, demanding action from the Liberal government. French introduced a private member's bill calling for new legislation.

In December, after four years of Steelworkers' lobbying and activism, the government finally passed a bill amending the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.

"It's a victory for our union and it's nice to know that surviving spouses across Ontario no longer have to worry about their pensions being cut," Mrochek says. ■



Finally, a Manager Goes to Jail!

Precedent-setting sentence boosts USW's Stop the Killing campaign.

A precedent-setting jail sentence for a construction company manager is a victory for the USW's tireless advocacy for corporate criminal accountability in workplace death and injury.

On January 11 a Toronto judge imposed a 3½-year jail sentence on a Metron Construction manager found guilty of criminal negligence in the deaths of four workers. The workers were repairing balconies outside an apartment building and were killed when the swing stage they were using collapsed. They were not secured to safety lines or harnesses and their manager was aware the mandatory fall protections were not in place.

The jail sentence – the first of its kind in Ontario – has national implications for the Steelworkers' campaign to Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law, said USW District 6 Director Marty Warren.

"If employers see this sentence as a deterrent to negligence and to the urge to gamble with workers' lives, then we may see a gradual improvement in health and safety," Warren said following the judge's decision.

"For too long, workers have been somehow seen to be at fault for causing their own death and injury. At best, companies are handed fines and move on with their operations, without accountability and without justice for families. That has got to stop."

Steelworkers have led the way in advocating for corporate

accountability for workplace deaths for more than two decades. It began with a decade of lobbying for new legislation, after 26 miners were killed in the 1992 Westray Mine explosion in Plymouth, N.S.

The so-called Westray Law was finally passed in 2004, allowing for criminal prosecution of corporate executives, directors and managers responsible for workplace death and injury.

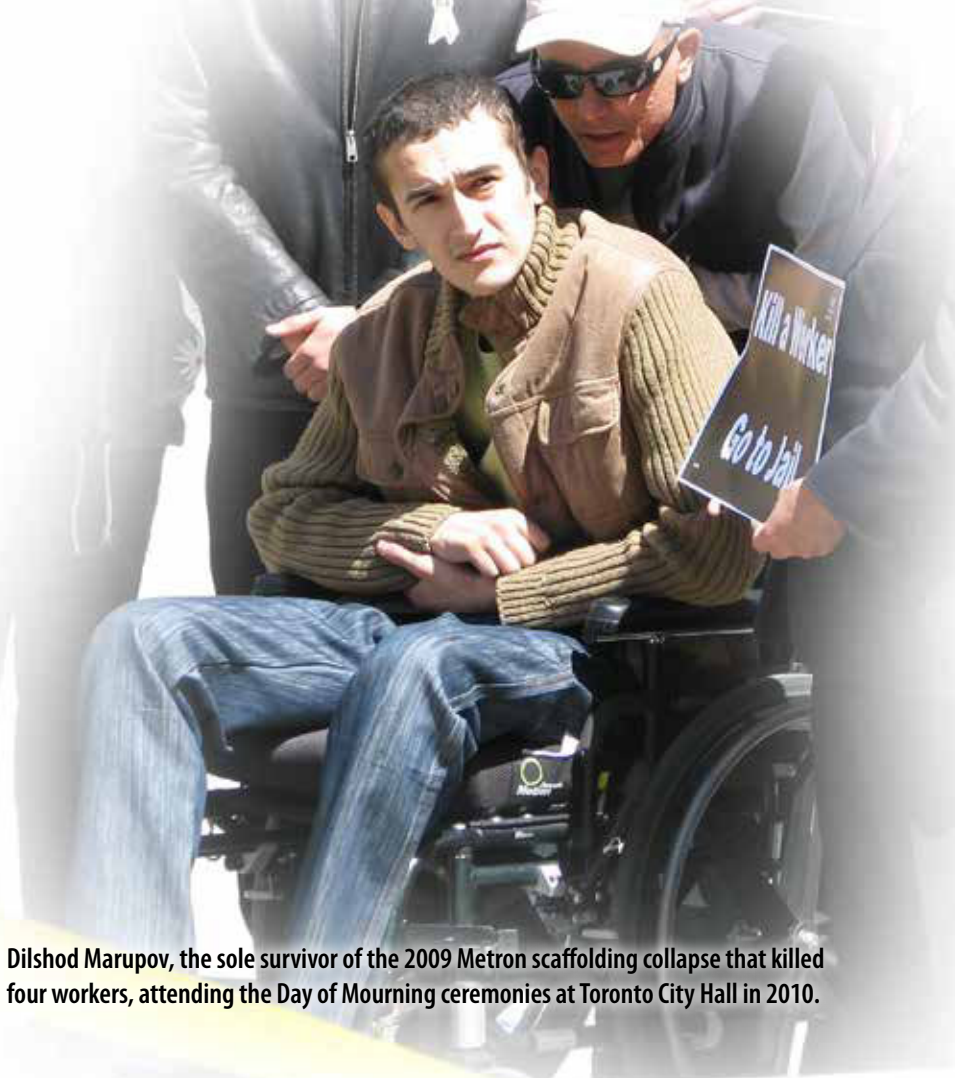
However, the law has rarely been applied in the ensuing decade, despite the fact that 10,000 workers have been killed on the job across Canada. The jail sentence imposed

in Toronto in January is the first of its kind since the law was passed.

The minimal application of the law prompted the USW to launch the Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law campaign, which has been endorsed by municipalities and organizations across Canada. Federal, provincial and territorial justice ministers have jointly pledged to further examine the issue of greater enforcement of the law.

"We will continue to lead the fight to stop the killing and ensure justice for workers and their families," Warren said. ■

www.stopthekilling.ca



Dilshod Marupov, the sole survivor of the 2009 Metron scaffolding collapse that killed four workers, attending the Day of Mourning ceremonies at Toronto City Hall in 2010.

Steelworkers Support New Leadership at Ontario Federation of Labour

USW District 6 Director
Marty Warren

welcomes the new leadership of the Ontario Federation of Labour, elected at the OFL convention in November.

Unifor's Chris Buckley was unanimously elected OFL President, OSSTF's Patty Coates was similarly elected Secretary-Treasurer and Ahmad Gaied from UFCW was elected Executive Vice-President.

"This is a good day for working people and the labour movement in Ontario. We are entering a new period of thoughtful and strong activism on behalf of Ontario workers both unionized and non-unionized," said Warren. "The Steelworkers have confidence in all three newly elected officials."

"My job is to make sure that this federation pulls together! My goal is to unite our labour movement across Ontario and that starts with unity at your OFL," said Buckley. "We owe it to workers today and to our collective future to champion a province-wide campaign to reshape labour laws in the interest of every worker in Ontario."

A strong USW delegation attended the convention to support Chris Buckley's OFL leadership team.

"I am proud of the many Steelworkers who have been active participants and voting delegates at this week's convention," said Warren.

***Underemployment,
precarious work,
underrepresentation
in leadership. Young
worker issues unite
us all.***

Briana Broderick
OFL Young Worker Vice-President

During the week-long convention, USW delegates thanked outgoing OFL Secretary-Treasurer and Woman of Steel Nancy Hutchison for her years of strong and determined leadership at the OFL.

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Marty Warren
District 6 Director

Our new executive team at the OFL includes USW Local 2010 Vice President Briana Broderick who was elected as the OFL Young Worker Vice-President.

"Underemployment, precarious work, underrepresentation in leadership. Young worker issues unite us all," said Broderick, who is also Kingston and District Labour Council Vice-President and the USW District 6 NextGen Coordinator. Congratulations, Briana!

The OFL Cliff Pilkey Awards honoured Andy King, former head of the USW National Health, Safety and Environment Department, with the Linda Jolley Lifetime Achievement Award for Health and Safety. ■

FED FORWARD

LABOUR LA

Steelworkers make the case for long-over

Ontario Steelworkers are mobilizing to ensure a Liberal government pledge to reform labour laws will result in meaningful improvements for working families.

"Steelworkers are taking a leadership role in the growing campaign for a fundamental, progressive overhaul of our labour laws," says USW District 6 Director Marty Warren.

"It's been two decades since the Mike Harris Conservatives reversed the landmark, progressive labour law reforms made by the previous New Democratic government," Warren notes.

"Subsequent Liberal governments maintained the Conservatives' regressive changes over the last 12 years and the consequences have been devastating for working people. Too many families in Ontario have lost decent, middle-class jobs. Too many Ontarians are forced into poorly paid, insecure and unprotected work, with little support from their government," he says.

"So we are glad that the current Liberal government has opened a wide-ranging discussion about reforming labour laws in a positive direction."

Last spring, Ontario's Liberal government announced the Changing Workplaces Review, promising to examine how labour laws "could be amended to best protect workers while supporting businesses in our changing economy."

With the review panel's final report to the government scheduled for August of this year, changes to provincial labour laws could come as early as this fall.

The review process has included public consultations in several communities, with Steelworkers making a forceful and compelling case for long-overdue legislative changes.

Marty Warren presented a comprehensive, wide-ranging submission to the review panel, while rank-and-file Steelworkers offered real-life experiences of the failings of current laws.

Steelworkers have proposed positive, practical labour law reforms that will advance the interests of working people and foster an economy that works better for all, including:



Bob Lapchuk, David Elines, Alfred Mungra and Harkesh Saini, members of USW Local 9176, on strike against Crown Holdings at the time, present at the Changing Workplaces Review.



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

LAW REFORM

due progressive change.

- A truly fair method for workers to form unions, recognizing the vital roles of freely chosen unions that are independent of employer control and that can engage in effective bargaining.
- A better balance of power when employers try to slash employees' incomes and working conditions.
- An end to the 'race to the bottom' in the contract services sector.
- Replacing the patchwork of exclusions and loopholes in employment standards law, to protect and benefit all working people.

"It's clear that decisions of governments over the last 20 years to weaken labour laws and erode workers' rights have not resulted in job creation and economic prosperity," Warren said.

"Steelworkers will remain engaged in the review process and we will ensure politicians across the province know that working people expect Ontario to move in a truly progressive direction."

View the USW submission to the Changing Workplaces Review at www.usw.ca/cwr. ■

Steelworkers will remain engaged in the review process and we will ensure politicians across the province know that working people expect Ontario to move in a truly progressive direction.

– Marty Warren
District 6 Director



Rick Bertrand, President of USW Local 6500 representing Vale mining workers, presenting in Sudbury.



Henri Bazinet, from USW Local 9597 representing Ontario security guards, speaks to CBC Radio.

Joining the Steelworker Family

New employees at \$4-billion Newfoundland plant turning to USW.

As operations ramp up at Vale's new nickel processing plant in Long Harbour, N.L., Steelworkers are forging ahead with a campaign to organize the facility's workers.

"We're making progress day-by-day," says USW organizer Al Pilgrim. "The workers realize that once the plant is in full production, they will benefit from being in a union and that the Steelworkers is the union for them."

There are roughly 250 employees at the \$4.25-billion processing plant in Long Harbour, about 100 kilometres west of St. John's. Vale has said the facility will employ about 475 workers when it reaches full production.

Vale was required by the provincial government to build the Long Harbour plant to process nickel that is mined – by Steelworkers – at Voisey's Bay on the Labrador coast.

"From Voisey's Bay to Sudbury, Port Colborne (Ontario) and Thomson (Manitoba), workers at all other Vale operations in Canada are members of the United Steelworkers," notes USW District 6 Director Marty Warren.

The workers make the company successful and they deserve fair treatment and a fair share of that success.

– Marty Warren
District 6 Director

"We believe all Vale employees deserve to join our union," Warren says.

"Our members at other Vale locations enjoy rights that are a big step up from what non-union workers must tolerate. They have a real say in their working conditions, their safety, their pay, benefits, retirement and their day-to-day rights on the job. They have a legally binding contract that ensures fairness in decisions that affect them and their families."

"Being part of the USW while working for Vale is a very simple decision," says Darren Cove, President of USW Local 9508, representing Vale workers in Voisey's Bay.

"Legitimate workplace issues like fair treatment, getting proper protective equipment, fair scheduling – these

are all things that a union does not let go unchallenged. It's worth it," says Cove.

Quietly and methodically, employees at the Long Harbour processing plant are signing USW membership cards, which ultimately will lead to an application for certification to the Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Relations Board.

"The workers make the company successful and they deserve fair treatment and a fair share of that success," says Warren. "Without a union, they have to accept whatever the company thinks is 'appropriate.' With the Steelworkers they have a real voice in the decisions that affect them." ■





NEXTGEN NEWS

District 6 has long been committed to strengthening the next generation of leaders within our union, and perhaps no one has embodied this dedication more than Lisa Cook of USW Local 9329. For years, Cook, along with Male Coordinator Josh Smith, has tirelessly dedicated herself to her role of Female Coordinator of the D6 NextGen Committee. As Cook steps down from this position, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all her hard work. We have no doubt that Cook will continue to be an amazing activist and stalwart member within our movement.

The new NextGen Committee Female Coordinator is Briana Broderick, USW Local 2010 and Local 2010-01. Broderick is the full-time Vice-President for Local 2010, representing staff and academic assistants at Queen's University. Broderick also currently serves as First Vice-President, Kingston and District Labour Council, and

Vice-President for Kingston and the Islands NDP federal riding association. Recently, Broderick was elected the Young Workers Vice-President at the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL). Broderick serves on the newly created OFL Executive Committee as one of two equity vice-presidents.

Broderick sees NextGen training and development as a keystone for successful succession planning – ensuring that young workers see themselves within the leadership ranks of our local unions, but also as a strong voice within the social justice movement. Broderick looks forward to developing and

implementing youth engagement strategies and programs that will mould our workers into leaders. Together, Broderick and Smith will work to build off the accomplishments made in this area over the last several years.

To that end, D6 is holding an intensive three-day leadership and development training program at the District 6 Office for all NextGen Regional Representatives from February 19-21. Area Council leaders are encouraged to submit their NextGen rep registration to Briana Broderick (contact info below).

If you are 35 years or younger, you are a member of the NextGen Committee! For more information or to get involved, please contact: briana.broderick@usw2010.ca. ■

LA PROCHAINE GÉNÉRATION

 NEXT GENERATION



Pay plus Cost of Living at **Garda Security Screening**

Security screeners have negotiated a three-year deal for 253 members at the Ottawa International Airport. Highlights include a 6.7% increase over the term of the deal, increases in the cost-of-living allowance, employer-paid short- and long-term disability plans (provided by the Steelworkers Benefit Plan), improved scheduling language and other language improvements.



Improved Pensions and Part-Time Pay at **Park Place Retirement Residence**

A three-year deal with a 6% increase over the term puts money in the pockets of 80 members at Park Place Retirement Residence and Park Place Seniors' Suites in Ottawa. The deal includes several improvements to language in the collective agreement and a long-term-disability plan that is 85% paid by the employer (an improvement over the previous employee-paid plan). Pension contributions and part-time pay in lieu were brought up to par for all members.



Plant Investment Good News at **Frito Lay**

USW members agreed to a five-year deal in a new agreement with Frito Lay thanks to the company's commitment to invest \$1.5 million in the Cambridge operations. This means job security and an increase in the size of the already 550-strong bargaining unit. The agreement provides for 10.75% in wage increases over the term, a long-sought-after drug card for members, increases to the pension, an apprenticeship program for trades and language improvements that will protect our members.



Job Security and Structural Improvements for **Frito Lay Transport**

Drivers at Frito Lay achieved numerous sought-after improvements in a new five-year agreement. Wages will increase by 12% over the term and pensions get an increase of 10%. A new component pay system is being phased in, but members have one year to decide if they want to revert to salary. Members won a drug card and significant language changes, particularly around vacations.



Benefits and Wage Improvements Win the Day at **Cello**

Members at Cello, a copper products manufacturer in Cambridge, bargained for improved benefits including increases in the pension benefit, life insurance, vision care, safety boot payments and improved provisions around plant closure and bereavement leave in a three-year deal with wage increases of 5.2% over the term for the 55-member unit.



Overtime Notice, Wage Increases at **Plastifab**

Members prioritized benefits and won increased vision coverage, coverage for employees over age 65 and wage increases totaling 7% over a four-year agreement. Members sought and won notice of overtime, agreement to remove excess hours and the ability to take banked hours or vacation in half or full days. The agreement clarifies the vacation selection process and improves language around cross training for the 35-member unit in Kitchener.



Wage Increases of 10% Over Four Years at **Woodbridge Foam**

Members won wage increases of 2.5% a year over four years in their new agreement at Woodbridge Foam in Kitchener. The deal for the 75-member unit includes improvements to health and safety language around hot weather and noise, notice of planned overtime, enhanced job security through changes to posting and bumping, improved apprenticeship provisions and a guaranteed timeframe for payment of short-term-disability claims.



New Training Opportunities Plus 12% Wage Increase at **Harsco Nanticoke**

Harsco Nanticoke members have a new agreement with 12% in wage increases over the five-year term, plus a lump-sum signing bonus. Other agreement gains include an improved benefit plan, a retroactive increase to the pension plan, a 10¢ shift premium increase for afternoons and nights, new employer-paid outside training and improved scheduling language with an overtime provision if the schedule is changed after a specific time.



First Agreement at **Hampton Inn, Elliot Lake**

Not long after winning their union at Hampton Inn, members ratified a three-year first agreement that includes an immediate wage increase of \$1/hour. The deal has good language, monetary gains around vacation, bereavement, statutory holiday pay, a uniform allowance and 15.1% in increased wages over the term. Members also have language around the shift schedule, health and safety, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment in an agreement that could become a model for hotel organizing.



Wage and Other Increases at **Noront Steel**

Members negotiated 5.5% in wage increases in a three-year deal at the steel fabricating plant in Sudbury. The unit made other monetary gains including safety boots, vision care, group life insurance, long-term disability and dental benefits.



Three-year Agreement at **Imerys Talc Canada**

The new deal at Imerys Talc Canada, a refining plant in Timmins, includes wage increases of 6% over a three-year agreement. The agreement's monetary improvements include increases in the work clothes allowance and a \$500 signing bonus.



Aramark Workers Negotiate 4.5% at **Timmins Hospital**

The new three-year deal for Aramark laundry and hospitality workers at Timmins Hospital includes a 4.5% wage increase over the term, a monetary increase to footwear, improved bereavement language and an extra floater with pay.



Wage Increases of 7.5%, Monetary Gains at **Bristol Machine**

The 82 members at Bristol Machine, a machine and welding shop in Sudbury, negotiated a five-year deal with wage increases of 7.5% over the term. The deal has monetary increases for vision care, wellness and the work boot allowance and language improvements around layoffs, health and safety and job postings.



Kirkland Lake Inn Workers To Amalgamate with **USW Local 2020**

Members at the Super 8 in Kirkland Lake (formerly Kirkland Lake Inn) will amalgamate with USW Local 2020. The housekeeping, maintenance and front desk workers have a new three-year agreement with good contract language.



Members Win Hard-Fought Language at **Timmins-Temiskaming Legal Clinic**

Office staff at the Timmins-Temiskaming Community Legal Clinic have negotiated a three-year deal featuring strong language the members worked hard to bargain. The unit will be amalgamated with USW Local 9350.

Bargaining agreements is at the heart of what we do as USW members. While achieving good collective agreements with gains for our members is a challenge in these difficult economic times, these highlights show that we are having significant success. These contracts, and the many more that we will conclude in 2016, are a credit to the strength and solidarity of our USW members working alongside our dedicated staff. Congratulations to all the USW bargaining teams for their hard work and dedication to our membership.

Marty Wam

URGENCY FOR STEEL INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN

***Steelworkers
call for
immediate
and significant
government
action.***

From organized labour to corporate executives, industry analysts to rank-and-file workers and pensioners to community leaders – virtually everyone recognizes our domestic steel sector is in such a crisis that immediate and significant government action is needed.

Steelworkers are leading the urgent call for the Canadian and Ontario governments to acknowledge the crisis and make meaningful commitments to prevent the disappearance of our steel industry – a vital component of an advanced manufacturing economy that our country needs.

Two of the country's largest steel producers – U.S. Steel Canada in Hamilton and Nanticoke and Essar Steel Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie – are already under creditor protection. The USW represents workers at both companies, with 5,000 jobs and the pensions and benefits of tens of thousands of retirees at stake.

Other domestic steel producers have cut or shut down production, as an industry supporting 20,000 direct and 100,000 spinoff jobs across the country teeters on the brink.

The crisis stems from a perfect storm of circumstances – low world steel prices, a sluggish oil and gas sector and the dumping of subsidized steel from China and other countries with poor environmental, safety and working standards.

On Jan. 30, thousands of Steelworkers and their supporters rallied in Hamilton to demand justice for workers and pensioners and government support for a domestic steel industry.

USW District 6 Director Marty Warren has called on the Ontario government to implement a Steel Industry Action Plan.

The plan must include short-term loans to help companies weather the crisis, support for research and development, workforce training and pensions and benefits for retirees, Warren said.

"Thousands of men and women and their families are in critical danger of losing their livelihoods," he said in a letter to Ontario Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid.

Warren also joined USW National Director Ken Neumann in signing a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, citing the critical need for federal action, including progressive trade policies and incentives for industry restructuring.

"We urge your government to work with us on a strategy to ensure the viability and sustainability of a Canadian steel industry," the letter stated.

"Canada needs a strong, domestic steel industry as a cornerstone of an advanced manufacturing economy, and many families, communities and suppliers will suffer if we don't act now." ■



Steelworkers support the campaign to stop the Liberal sell-off of Hydro One.

The shortsighted sell-off of our public assets by the Ontario Liberal government will cost us all more, and not just in higher electricity bills.

Privatizing Hydro One will drive up rates and end public control over this vital service. And we'll be paying for this bad decision forever.

Privatizing Hydro One will drive up rates and end public control over this vital service. And we'll be paying for this bad decision forever. Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals never mentioned hydro privatization during the 2014 provincial election.

For more than 100 years we have been proud that our government had the courage to build and expand a public electricity utility to deliver reliable, low-cost power. In the 1920s, Ontario's public hydro utility was the largest electric power system in the world.

Until the sell-off, Hydro One provided \$800 million in revenue to the province every year. Those revenues

help fund our hospitals, schools and other public services. Now those revenues will be reduced, and we'll all be paying more for the private profits of investors instead of funding our public services.

Even though some Hydro One shares have been sold, it's not too late to stop the rest of the 60% sell off.

Almost 200 municipalities across the province have passed resolutions opposing the Hydro One sale.

Let's start conversations with our family and friends about why the Ontario Liberal government's privatization of Hydro One is a mistake:

- It will cost \$500 million per year in lost revenue that is needed for schools, hospitals and transit.
- There is a long track record of privatization of public utilities costing the public more.
- We have lost the ability to enforce public accountability and oversight over Hydro One.
- This hurts our effort to design a made-in-Ontario plan to fight climate change.
- It sets a bad precedent for privatizing our public assets. If hydro can be sold, what's next?

Steelworkers are part of a broad labour coalition including the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) that opposes hydro privatization. Join the campaign. Speak out. Tell your MPP to stop the sale of Hydro One at www.KeepHydroPublic.ca. ■



Steelworkers
DENTAL

Located in four convenient locations, Steelworkers Dental provides professional dental care to union members and to the general public.

We take pride in providing oral health care in a warm, welcoming and friendly environment.

As a non-profit, Steelworkers Dental bills its services below the current ODA (Ontario Dentist Association) Fee Guide©. Our below ODA service fees are available to union members and to the public.

Visit us online today to learn more about our services and to book your next appointment.

steelworkersdental.ca