



NEWS@6

SUMMER 2017

STRENGTH *in Connection*

Comrades!

We are a strong union and we are building our strength all the time – through education, bargaining, political action, conferences and helping out in our communities.

We have victories and we have challenges. And we need to communicate both.

One of the best ways to build our strength is to communicate with our members and engage them in our activities. We are finding more ways to communicate with our members, through D6 Connect emails, text messages, local union websites, social media channels like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter and publications like local union newsletters and *News@6*.

I encourage you to prioritize member communications and grassroots member activism – within our union and in our communities – by supporting and leading social justice and political action efforts.

We all benefit when our members become involved in our union and better understand our role, our power and our value in our workplaces and our communities. Union activists get educated on membership issues and concerns, helping us to better serve our members. It's a win-win.

We have victories and we have challenges. And we need to communicate both.

We will not give up the fight for a strong, sustainable steel industry and for those harmed by greedy corporations and unfair bankruptcy protection laws. We will continue to work with our friends in the NDP provincially and federally to see that workers and retirees come first.

On the victory side, Steelworkers are leading the way in negotiating domestic violence leave provisions in our contracts – breaking the silence on a taboo topic and demonstrating our commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

We will be making DV leave language a District 6 policy in all our negotiations until it becomes the law in Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

I am so proud of the tremendous work we do together. We will continue to build our union's strength by engaging our membership in our movement. I hope you enjoy this issue of *News@6*. Enjoy the summer and say a good word about your union.

In solidarity,

Marty Warren
USW District 6 Director

<srj-sdr, cope-sepb 343>



Twenty-five years ago, on Saturday, May 9, 1992, the Westray Mine exploded, killing an entire shift working underground. The next day the *New Glasgow Evening News* printed a free issue with no advertising as families waited at the local firehall to hear any news at all about their loved ones.

Mike Piché, the Steelworker organizer who had been in town for weeks before, getting union cards signed, was at the firehall too. Friends he had made were among those who were missing.

"Families waited in the quiet hope that their husbands, brothers, sons and uncles would be rescued,"

"Members of the United Steelworkers can be proud of what they, through their union, have contributed in memory of the Westray miners."

– Marty Warren

Piché recalls. "The full extent of the disaster was not known for several days, until it was announced by a company employee that bodies had been found and identified. Like the Grim Reaper, this employee approached family members who cried out, 'Don't come near me!' It made me sick to see such a clumsy

way of delivering the worst possible news to people."

In all, 26 men died. Eleven bodies remain entombed in the shafts that are now covered by a memorial park in Stellarton.

This is now hallowed ground. And Steelworkers have been a part of the Westray story for a quarter century,

USW Leadership Key to Pension Security

Groundbreaking work by the USW is expected to achieve a landmark agreement in the near future on pension sustainability for tens of thousands of university employees.

Steelworkers have been working for three years to counter intense pressure

from employers and government on the defined-benefit pension plans of USW members and other university employees.

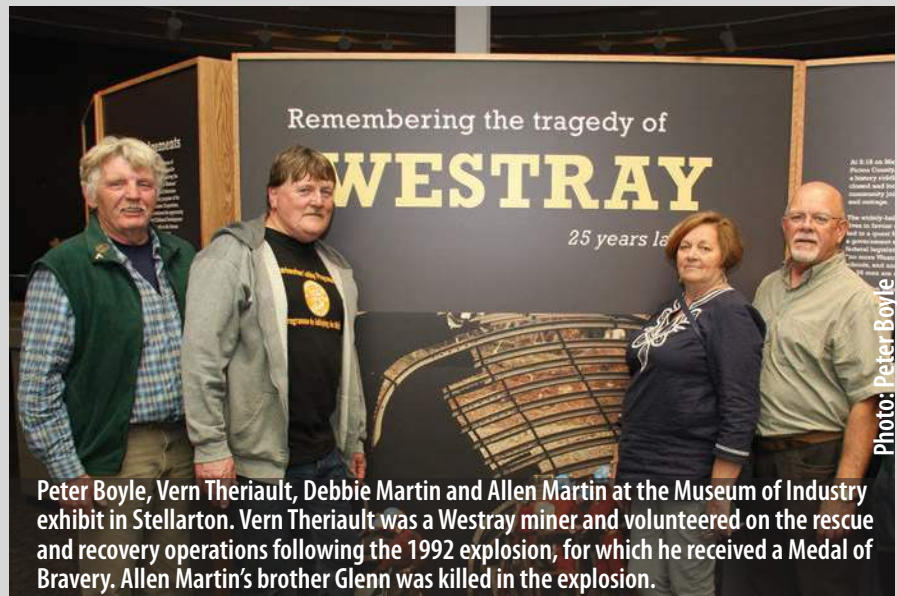
Thanks to USW leadership, a comprehensive agreement may soon be finalized to preserve decent

pensions for about 36,000 employees at the University of Toronto, Queen's University and the University of Guelph. The USW represents more than 6,000 office, administrative and technical employees at these universities.

from the public inquiry in the 1990s to the lobbying on Parliament Hill and the passage of the Westray Law on corporate accountability for workplace killing and, for the last four years, the campaign to better enforce the law that was supposed to fulfil the promise of “No More Westrays.”

On May 9, 2017, Steelworkers were back in Stellarton once again to commemorate the 25 years since the explosion, and to reconnect with families and the communities who will never forget the worst industrial disaster in recent Canadian history.

The Men of the Deeps miners’ choir sang, Rev. Glen Matheson spoke of the lives that were lost and those who were left behind, and a full day of events made headlines all over Nova Scotia and across the country. The hashtag #Westray was trending at number one in Canada on Twitter and was featured on Twitter’s ‘moments’ page.



Peter Boyle, Vern Theriault, Debbie Martin and Allen Martin at the Museum of Industry exhibit in Stellarton. Vern Theriault was a Westray miner and volunteered on the rescue and recovery operations following the 1992 explosion, for which he received a Medal of Bravery. Allen Martin's brother Glenn was killed in the explosion.

“Members of the United Steelworkers can be proud of what they, through their union, have contributed in memory of the Westray miners,” said District 6 Director Marty Warren. “The union has repaired and replaced the interpretive panels at the Memorial Park and has introduced an annual scholarship of \$2,500.”

One scholarship will be awarded each year to a student in the Stellarton area who is completing high school and pursuing post-secondary education. Applying for the scholarship will be a permanent reminder of the tragedy that brings so many people together every May 9. It is intended to help keep the memory of Westray in the hearts and minds of generations to come.

Nova Scotia Remembers

Pictou County organized a number of concurrent events for students, the Westray families and the community as part of the 25th Westray anniversary. The USW was honoured to be included.

- Students at three area high schools took part in the USW’s New Worker Awareness session.
- A health and safety panel discussion was broadcast via live feed to all high schools in Nova Scotia.
- The USW held a reception at New Glasgow City Hall recognizing the work of municipalities from across Pictou County building support for the USW’s Stop the Killing campaign.
- Journalist and author Tom Sandborn read from his publication *Hell’s History* at the New Glasgow Library.
- A new exhibit, Remembering the Tragedy of Westray 25 years later opened at the Museum of Industry in Stellarton. ■

Their light shall always shine

Steelworkers and several other unions are in the final stages of negotiations with the three universities to create a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP) for all employees.

A JSPP is a defined-benefit plan in which employers and employees

share responsibility for plan governance and funding. The plan spearheaded by the USW will create long-term pension sustainability for members by combining a large pool of assets, reducing costs and providing better investment opportunities.

Creating the JSPP has been a challenging undertaking, requiring co-operation of several unions in negotiations with multiple university administrations. Steelworkers’ leadership in confronting this challenge has been crucial in achieving pension security for our members. ■

Steelworkers Make Great Neighbour S

Members of USW District 6 continue to build on our tradition of giving back to our communities. Share photos and your story of volunteering in your community at www.usw.ca/uswcares or by email to newmedia@usw.ca. If you are sharing your project on Facebook or Twitter, include **#USWCares** in your posts and mention **USWDistrict6** on Facebook or **@uswdistrict6** on Twitter.

Sault Ste. Marie Steelworkers Support Algoma Autism Foundation

USW Local 2251 in Sault Ste. Marie donated a brand-new TV to the Algoma Autism Foundation for a raffle that raises funds for sensory-safe events and sensory equipment for autistic children.

Community Comes Together for Bruce

Our friend Bruce Frost, 2nd Vice-President of USW Local 1-2010 in Northern Ontario, suffered a heart attack during the USW International Convention in Las Vegas. A GoFundMe page started at the convention surpassed its \$5,000 goal within one hour, thanks to Steelworkers

from across locals, districts, states/provinces and countries. Funds raised will help with Bruce's medical costs and his family's expenses during his recovery in hospital in Las Vegas and costs for his eventual flight home to Canada.

Celebrate Pride – Pride Month

Steelworkers across the district will be taking part in Pride celebrations this summer. While June is a month of celebration for LGBTQ communities, activists and allies, we fight for equality throughout the year. Encourage

members of your local to take part in Pride events in your community. Read Director Warren's statement for Pride Month and order USW Pride flags:

www.usw.ca/district6.

Kingston Steelworkers Bowl for Mental Health

Kingston area Steelworkers came out for USW Local 343's Bowling for Mental Health in April, raising funds to support Providence Care Mental Health. Next up, the local is making a donation and organizing volunteers to help build a community garden as part of the Inner Harbour Community Garden Collaborative for Town Homes Kingston.



Tony Agostino with a young player at USW Local 343's Bowling for Mental Health event in Kingston.



STEELWool wins Mayworks Labour Arts Award

Congrats to members of USW Local 1998's Human Rights Committee, winners of a Mayworks Labour Arts Award for labour organizations. Members and volunteers knit and crocheted 132 scarves that were draped on trees at all three University of Toronto campuses to recognize the importance of Bill 132, legislation that adds workplace sexual harassment to the Ontario Health and Safety Act. The scarf installation was a visual display against workplace violence.

Celebrating 30 Years of Women of Steel

Toronto, July 23-25

2017 marks 30 years since Women of Steel began in District 6 and we are celebrating with a D6 Women's conference July 23-25 in Toronto.

The Women of Steel program began as a way to support women's involvement and leadership within our union. Women of Steel was created in District 6, but has since spread across our union and continues to break down workplace barriers, encourage women's participation in union activities and develop leadership.

Soon after the Women of Steel program began in 1987, a committee of Steelworker women worked with a course designer to create a leadership development course. It was designed by women, facilitated by women, for women participants only. The goal: "Women will leave this course with a better understanding of the union and the situations women face."

The course was piloted in Toronto, Sudbury and Winnipeg in 1990-91. Over the years, Women of Steel: Developing Leadership has been responsible for linking hundreds of individual Women of Steel with leadership roles inside the union and beyond. And we've added a second course, USW Women's Committees: Leading Together.

Learn more about the history of Women of Steel: www.usw.ca/womenofsteel.

In 2017, we are proud to recognize 30 years of Women of Steel with our District 6 Women's conference: Time for HERstory. We will highlight the accomplishments of our Women of Steel, look at how we have overcome challenges and plan for the future of our union. The conference will include panels, workshops, interactive theatre and a social event on Monday evening.

We welcome new and experienced activists and reflect on our past while building and strengthening our union for the future. ■



The District 6 Women's Committee collected sewn blocks to make a quilt for Women of Steel's 30th anniversary.



Labour law reform

Ontario Government ‘Must Aim Higher’

Steelworkers are calling on the Ontario government to make fundamental changes to provincial labour laws to end a massive imbalance in labour relations across the province.

“The USW calls on the Premier and Cabinet to show real leadership in strengthening employees’ rights in Ontario,” District 6 Director Marty Warren said, following the release of the report from Ontario’s Changing Workplaces Review.

This government can and must aim higher to meaningfully address this imbalance.

– Marty Warren

Prior to the report’s release, Labour Minister Kevin Flynn acknowledged most Ontarians have little power to improve their working and living standards, due to “an unbalanced relationship where the employer holds all the cards.”

However, the Changing Workplaces Review largely leaves that imbalance in place, by failing to recommend fundamental changes to strengthen workers’ collective bargaining rights and their ability to join a union.

“The Labour Minister has publicly acknowledged the massive imbalance that exists in workplaces across the province,” Warren noted. “This government can and must aim higher to meaningfully address this imbalance.”

The Liberal government is expected to introduce new labour and employment legislation in the fall. Steelworkers are challenging the government to go beyond the report’s recommendations in key areas, including:

- Allowing card-check certification for all Ontario workers, in which a union is certified when a majority of employees sign cards, removing employer interference from the process;
- Providing the option of binding arbitration to resolve lengthy lockouts and strikes;
- Restoring anti-scab legislation to ban replacement workers in labour disputes.

The USW also is calling on the government to introduce paid domestic violence leave and to extend unpaid, protected leave in such circumstances.

The USW supports government commitments to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2019 and to mandate a minimum of three weeks’ paid vacation for workers with five years’ service with the same employer.

The USW also supports recommendations from the Changing Workplaces Review to:

- Increase employees’ rights to communicate with co-workers during union organizing efforts;
- Ensure workers in precarious employment sectors do not lose their union in the event of a flip in their company’s contract for service;
- Provide equal pay for part-time employees doing the same work as full-timers;
- Decrease the time period that employers can keep workers in lower-paid ‘permanent temporary’ status. ■



United Steelworkers District 6 Fall School

October 29 – November 3, 2017
Fern Resort, Orillia, Ontario

Register today!

Registration deadline is September 29

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
DISTRICT 6

2017 USW District 6 Fall School

Join your fellow Steelworkers for a week of learning and fun to strengthen our union!

Register early to ensure a spot in your preferred course during our week-long educational seminars at the Fern Resort near Orillia from Oct. 29 – Nov. 3, 2017.

2017 Fall School Courses

Arbitration: Prepare and Present

This intensive course, instructed by the USW National Office Legal Department, is designed to give participants the practical skills and knowledge required to prepare and present a case at an arbitration hearing.

Special emphasis is placed on collecting evidence, effective techniques in examination and cross-examination, developing opening statements and final arguments as well as discussion of current trends and emerging issues in arbitrations.

Prerequisite: Participants must have completed Stewards in Action I, II & III

Note: Due to the intensity, high demand for this course and limited spots, participants will be required to submit additional information and only those members selected for the course will be confirmed to attend.

Communications

As communications and social media technology continues to evolve, it is important to be up to date with the current tools our members are using. In order to do that, we must understand the basics.

This course will focus on a number of communications fundamentals, including developing a message, public speaking, communicating with members, dealing with the media and moving union campaigns forward by getting our message out. This course will also cover new media and how to better engage our membership.

Bargaining in a Borderless World

Steelworkers are dealing day-in and day-out with the destructive consequences of globalization.

From forestry and mining, to manufacturing and telecommunications, our members are negotiating with massive multinationals for which Canadian workplaces are but a small part of their global operations. We're often confronted by job losses due to unfair trade agreements, environmental degradation from reckless resource extraction and the weakening of laws and regulations intended to protect workers and communities.

Meanwhile, new workers arriving in Canada hoping to build a better life often face exploitation, such as widespread abuses of the wage-suppressing Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

This course will look at the tactics and tools used by employers and governments to spread and sustain this model of globalization, the response from unions in collective bargaining and politics as well as alternatives for a model of development rooted in global justice.

USW Women's Committees: Leading Together

Trying to get a new women's committee off the ground? Or looking for ways to fire up an existing committee? This course will look at characteristics of an effective committee and ways to ensure the committee's work connects with the needs of women throughout the local. We'll draft budgets and motions, practice holding kitchen-table



Register today!
Easy online registration at:
www.usw.ca/d6fallschool

Course Descriptions

conversations and create a strategic plan. Get an in-depth look at how locals can engage in critical work on violence against women, pay equity and affordable childcare.

Stewards in Action III: Grievances at Final Step and Beyond

This course builds research skills and knowledge, including online research, accessing and analyzing relevant arbitration decisions and applying legal principles to grievance files.

The course provides a framework for making sound decisions about advancing a grievance to arbitration or for choosing another path when the pre-arbitration stage is exhausted and a steward or grievance committee must decide “to go or not to go.”

The course also provides skills and knowledge to assess the merits of a case earlier in the process, and where possible, present stronger arguments to the employer in support of the union’s position.

Note: Participants should bring a laptop to class and should be prepared to do considerable research online. This course is best suited to stewards and grievance committee members.

Prerequisite: Participants must have completed Stewards in Action I & II

Promoting Mental Health in the Workplace and in the Union

This course examines mental health as a crucial issue both in our workplaces and in our roles as members and activists in the union. At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- ✔ Identify negative attitudes towards mental health and the implications of stigma, both in the workplace and in the union
- ✔ Learn, understand and apply a legal framework related to mental disability
- ✔ Learn about the employer’s duty to accommodate, and how to create an accommodation plan for mental disability
- ✔ Assess risk factors in the workplace using an adaptation of the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace
- ✔ Determine the difference between mental health and mental illness
- ✔ Assessing your own level of mental health and making a personal plan to maintain and improve mental health
- ✔ Consider the balance between mental health and union activism
- ✔ Draft a model Letter of Agreement related to mental health in the workplace

This workshop is important to all members concerned about mental health, and particularly, activists who serve on joint health and safety committees and human rights committees.

Register online or complete the form below and send it, along with the registration fee, to:

2017 USW District 6 Fall School
Lindsay Kellin
800-234 Eglinton Ave. E.
Toronto ON M4P 1K7

Registration deadline is September 29
Please make cheque or money order
payable to the United Steelworkers.



Register today!
Easy online registration at:
www.usw.ca/d6fallschool

Participant Information

Name: _____ Gender: Male Female Gender Diverse

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

Union Position (if applicable): _____ Local Union Number: _____

Employer Name: _____

Local Union Address:

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Special Requirements

Dietary Requirement(s): _____ Accessibility Requirement(s): _____

Other Requirement(s): _____

Childcare Required **Y/N**; if yes, please indicate ages: _____

Course Selection

1st choice: _____

2nd choice: _____

3rd choice: _____

Cost and Payment Options

Single Occupancy \$1,400 Double Occupancy \$1,200

If shared/double occupancy, please indicate who you would like to room with: _____

D6 has 45 scholarships available on a first come, first served basis, with one scholarship per bargaining unit. Participants from Atlantic provinces will be eligible for an enhanced scholarship due to travel costs.



www.usw.ca/d6fallschool



uswdistrict6



@uswdistrict6

Welcome to the Steelworkers!



New members of USW Local 2020 from the Holiday Inn Sudbury: Brenna Sullivan, Cecile Gibson and Mark Couture with USW Organizer Wanda Crites.



Holiday Inn, Sudbury

Workers at the Holiday Inn in Sudbury have voted to join the USW. The 90-member unit of Local 2020 includes employees in all areas of the hotel's operations: restaurant, banquet staff, cooks, servers, front desk, housekeeping and maintenance. The new members' bargaining priorities will include improvements in wages, fair payment for overtime and improvements to scheduling.

"These workers built solidarity across all the departments when no one thought it was possible. Many of these members are young, part-time workers and we are looking forward to their participation in our USW NextGen and Women of Steel activities," said USW District 6 Director Marty Warren.

With this organizing success, the members of the Holiday Inn Sudbury join USW members in three other hospitality units in Sudbury: the Quality Inn, the restaurant at the Quality Inn and the Homewood Hampton (two hotels).



Quest Windows, Mississauga

Looking to improve job classifications particularly for workers with temp agency status, 135 workers at Quest Windows in the Greater Toronto Area voted Union Yes and joined the Steelworkers in March. The company makes windows, mostly for commercial uses. Prior to voting for the USW, the workers at Quest were represented by an independent union, but were frustrated that their contract language was not enforced. Bargaining for a new contract is underway and the goal will be to assist temp agency workers, some of whom have been at Quest for two-to-three years without permanent status.



Freedom Mobile, Windsor

After an organizing campaign spearheaded by strong employee leadership, Freedom Mobile workers in Windsor voted to join the USW in January. Freedom Mobile, previously known as Wind Mobile, was purchased in 2015 by Shaw Communications for \$1.6 billion. The 187 employees in Windsor work in Freedom's customer care call centre. The new members of TWU, USW National Local 1944 are in bargaining for their first contract.

"Employees in telecom know that union membership is an important foundation in such a rapidly evolving industry. We are honoured that Freedom Mobile employees have chosen the USW," said Lee Riggs, President of TWU, USW National Local 1944. ■



Members of the USW bargaining committee for Freedom Mobile in Windsor: Steve Zahaluk (alternate), Tanya Travis Dunn, Christian Poisson and Jasen Gannon.

A big reason employees seek to join a union is to gain a voice at work. That collective 'voice' leads to improved wages and working conditions even in difficult economic times. Congratulations to our courageous members and hard-working staff on these recent collective agreements negotiated in our district.

Marty Wam



New bonus program at Tenaris

Local 9548 members at Tenaris Algoma Tubes ratified a five-year agreement with a signing bonus, improvements in benefits, pension, wages and seniority and safety language, as well as a new bonus program.



Lab West members improve contract

More than 100 members of Local 6480-28, working for construction and maintenance contractor RothLochston BEL Ltd. in Labrador West, achieved a new collective agreement providing improvements in wages, benefits and contract language.



Strong agreements at Ivaco

Better wages, benefits and contracting-out protections were achieved by members of Locals 7940 and 8794 at Ivaco Rolling Mills in L'Orignal, Ont. Wage increases range from \$3.82 to \$7.11 for trades and \$1.50 to \$3 for production employees, with new retention premiums of up to \$2 per hour for key positions.



Plastics workers opt for Steelworkers Pension

Local 3 (Unit 0) members at plastic film manufacturer AEP Canada in Toronto switched from their old plan to the Steelworkers Pension Plan, increased pension benefits from \$40.25 to \$49 per month per year of service. Other improvements include 6% wage increases over three years and enhancements in benefits, disability payments, shift premiums and tool and boot allowances.



Municipal employees weather tough times

Local 6185 members working at the Town of Wabush, coping with the loss of the Labrador community's largest employer, ratified a new collective agreement with modest wage increases in addition to maintaining cost-of-living adjustments.



Nuclear workers create new pension plan

Local 4096 members reached new contracts with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, resolving pension issues caused by the privatization of the former Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. in Chalk River, Ont. Agreements covering 360 employees created a new multi-employer, multi-union pension plan, provided lump-sum payments and annual wage increases ranging from 1.5% to 2% and improved contract language on employee rights and benefits.



Wage, pension, benefit gains for foundry workers

A three-year contract between members of Local 8748 (Unit 5) and Soo Foundry and Machine in Sault Ste. Marie features total wage increases of 5.5%, increased employer contributions to the pension plan, benefit improvements and higher fieldwork pay rates.



Whistleblower protection at Queen's

A new article protecting whistleblowers from employer retaliation was among several language improvements strengthening the collective agreement for about 80 academic assistants, members of Local 2010-01, at Queen's University in Kingston. The new contract also provides a lump-sum payment equivalent to a 1.44% salary increase in year one, followed by total increases of 3.5% over the following three years.



DV leave recognized for retirement home workers

Local 8327 members at Park Place Retirement Home in Ottawa negotiated domestic violence language into their sick leave language, as well as an employee assistance program and 2% annual wage increases over two years.



Renfrew steel members make gains

Two bargaining units of amalgamated Local 6946 in Renfrew County, Ont., achieved across-the-board gains with three-year agreements in late 2016. Employees at steel component manufacturer Pemco Inc. negotiated a new, union-trusted pension plan as well as improved wages, vacation and benefits. Employees at Samuel, Son and Co., a steel service facility and distribution centre, negotiated pension improvements, a new, short-term-disability plan and wage and benefit increases.



Restaurant employees win DV leave

Employees at Bridges Bistro in Sudbury, Local 2020 (Unit 54) members, negotiated new provisions for domestic violence leave, as well as improved sick leave and wage increases totaling \$2.75 an hour over three years.



Hospital workers strengthen contract

Local 9211-11 members, office and clerical staff at Hawkesbury General Hospital, negotiated improved benefits and total wage increases of 4.2% over three years while strengthening contract language in several areas including job postings, severance and contracting out.



Long-term care workers negotiate pension plan

Annual wage increases and premiums and benefits enhancements were achieved by long-term care workers at Country Village Homes in South Woodlee, Ont., near Windsor. The 130 members of Locals 9329-00 and 9329-01 also negotiated their membership and employer contributions to the Steelworkers Pension Plan.



Local 9290 cements fair deal

Local 9290 members at Federal White Cement Ltd. in Woodstock, Ont., achieved a three-year contract with 6% total wage increases, Steelworkers Pension Plan contributions reflecting 12% of an employee's gross income and several improvements in benefits and allowances, including an annual \$450 health bonus.



Contract improvements include Humanity Fund

Manufacturing workers Local 3313-44 members, who manufacture high-pressure water tanks at A.O. Smith in Stratford, Ont., ratified a three-year contract with a 3.75% wage increase, several benefits and language improvements, expansion of the defined-benefit pension plan and Steelworkers Humanity Fund contributions matched by the employer.



Casino employees improve wages, language

Local 8748 (Unit 18) members at the OLG Casino in Sault Ste. Marie negotiated a new three-year collective agreement providing increased wages and several improvements to contract language.



DB pension improvements

Heavy machinery service workers improved their defined-benefit pension plan in a three-year agreement at TMS International Canada in L'Orignal, Ont. The Local 8794-01 members also negotiated wage increases of 85 cents an hour in addition to cost-of-living adjustments, as well as enhanced benefits and contract language



Multiple increases for container manufacturers

Total wage hikes of 5.5% and increased pension contributions, vacation pay, group leader premium, boot allowance and weekly indemnity benefits were among monetary gains achieved by Local 343 (Unit 15) members at Greif Bros. Containers in Belleville. The three-year contract improves anti-harassment language and adds a paid holiday.



6% wage hikes at Lafarge

Total wage increases of 6% over three years are among the gains made by members of Local 343 (Unit 3) at Lafarge Canada in Belleville. Members also received a \$400 signing bonus and made improvements to benefits, vacation pay, allowances and leaves.



Long-term-care members protect wages, conditions

Guaranteed wages and working conditions during a reconstruction project are among gains made by Local 6946 members at the Valley Manor long-term care facility in Barry's Bay, Ont. The three-year agreement addresses employment stability through to 2019 and provides improved wages, pensions, benefits and vacations.



Major gains at Asahi

Securing early retiree health benefits was among numerous gains achieved in a five-year agreement by Local 6428 members at the Asahi castings plant in St. Catharines. The contract includes total wage hikes of 9.5%, early retirement bridge payments, several benefits enhancements and improved contract language on shift premiums and job security.

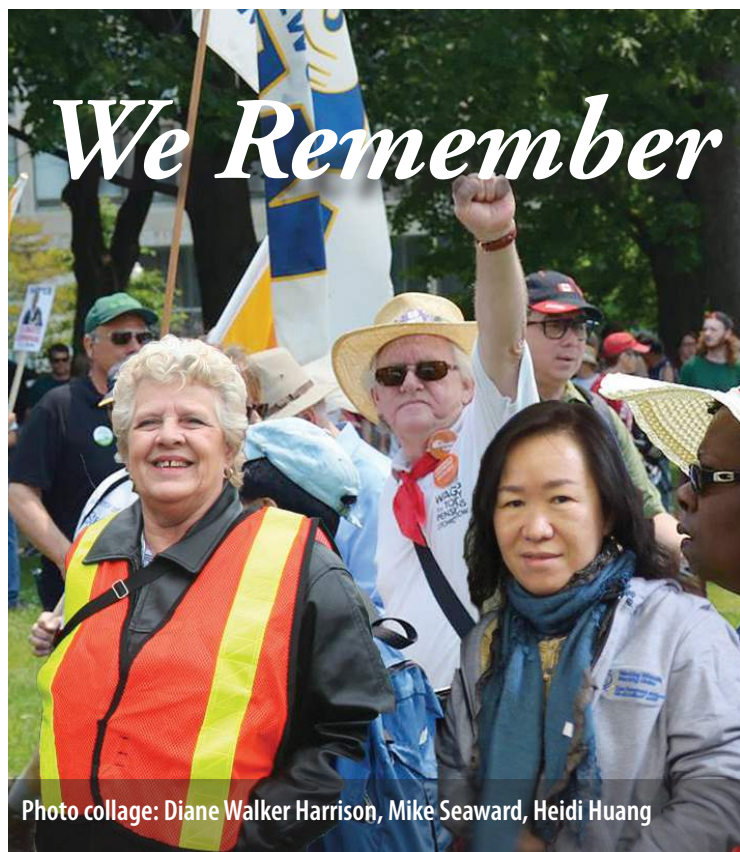


Photo collage: Diane Walker Harrison, Mike Seaward, Heidi Huang

Mike Seaward, 1950-2017

Stalwart Steelworker, loyal New Democrat, friend, brother, uncle, character. Gone suddenly and too soon on May 20. A proud Newfoundlander, Mike was an ever-dynamic constant in the Toronto labour movement and in the NDP. Active with USW Local 8412, Bon L Canada in Aurora, he served as President of the Steelworkers Toronto Area Council and Vice-President of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. Mike's passion for justice and fairness for workers will live on in all of us.

Dianne Walker Harrison, 1949-2017

Long-time activist and District 6 staff member Dianne Walker passed away on March 28, 2017, after a courageous struggle with cancer. Dianne worked at Crown Cork & Seal, USW Local 2514. She was a rock of the education department and played a key role in rolling out the Women of Steel course and served as the District 6 Women of Steel Committee Chair. Dianne was a mentor to many sisters in Steel. We'll miss you, Lady Di.

Heidi Huang, 1961-2017

In January, we lost our dear friend Heidi Huang to cancer. A member of USW Local 8300 and a steward at her workplace, Heidi was active with the Steelworkers Toronto Area Council and in the Chinese community. She is missed; our thoughts are with her friends, family, sisters, brothers and comrades. ■

• ROUNDUP •

National Workshop for Aboriginal Steelworkers Edmonton, July 5-6

Steelworkers of Aboriginal ancestry are invited to take part in our second National Workshop for Aboriginal Steelworkers, July 5-6 in Edmonton. The workshop will strengthen our work to recognize, accept and support our Aboriginal members. Open to USW members of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) and USW officers or stewards of locals with Aboriginal members. Register online at www.usw.ca/aboriginalUSW. The registration fee to attend is \$145.

USW Support for Participation in the MMIW Inquiry

The USW will provide some financial support to Steelworkers of Aboriginal ancestry who have suffered the loss of a family member and want to attend and/or give testimony at a hearing (or truth-finding gathering) of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). Carolyn Szilva, a Métis member of USW 2020, is our National Inquiry Coordinator. Members interested in applying for financial support or learning more should contact Carolyn at coord@usw.ca or 705-207-8515.

USW D6 Conference 2018 – Save the Date

Our next fabulous, amazing, inspiring, connected District 6 Conference will be held from Sept. 4-8, 2018. Mark your calendars, save the date and identify activists from your local. We need YOU!

Negotiating Domestic Violence Leave

The USW National Women's Committee's Anti-Violence initiative is leading to bargaining success – winning domestic violence leave provisions in our collective agreements. The Women's Committee developed an anti-violence kit that activists are using for presentations to local and area councils and in workplaces. The kit includes a presentation, brochure and sample contract language. In District 6, Staff Rep Darlene Jalbert has successfully negotiated 10 days of paid leave at Your Credit Union locations in Ottawa and Cornwall (USW locals 8327 and

• ROUNDUP • ROUNDUP •

Photo: Shawn Harquail on Flickr, used under CC BY-NC 2.0



Humanity Fund Helps in Ontario and New Brunswick

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund made donations to a community-based charity to assist with flood relief in the eastern Ontario communities of L'Orignal and Hawkesbury in May. In February, the fund contributed to local food banks in the Acadian Peninsula in New Brunswick to assist communities recovering from an ice storm.

13292). Staff Rep Lynne Descary has helped at least five bargaining units in Ontario obtain DV leave. Download the anti-violence initiative materials including model DV leave language at www.usw.ca/anti-violence.

USW Negotiates Agreement for Scully Mine

The USW will be the bargaining agent for workers at the Scully Mine in Wabush, Labrador, as part of a plan to reopen the mine in 2018. Tacora Resources is seeking court approval to purchase Scully Mine, which was part of the Wabush Mines that were closed in 2014 and placed under creditor protection. Tacora recently negotiated a collective agreement with the Steelworkers to ensure the union will represent employees when the mine reopens. Up to 300 jobs could be created when full production is reached. ■



Steelworker Joe Makes Us Proud

Congratulations to Steelworker Joe Krmpotich who ran a strong campaign as the NDP candidate in the June 1 provincial by-election in Sault Ste. Marie. While Joe didn't win, he did have a great showing and he's vowed to continue fighting in the Sault. Great job, Joe.

Steelworkers ratify agreements

Stelco Restructuring Moves Forward

USW members at Stelco operations in Ontario ratified new collective agreements in June, leading to court approval of the steelmaker's emergence from nearly three years of bankruptcy protection.

"This has been a difficult process for thousands of workers and pensioners. While these agreements represent a step forward, there are still hurdles to overcome in Stelco's restructuring," USW District 6 Director Marty Warren said.

USW Local 1005 members at Stelco's operations in Hamilton and USW Local 8782 members at the Stelco facilities in Nanticoke ratified five-year collective agreements with U.S.-based Bedrock Industries. Ratifying the agreements was required for court approval of Bedrock's purchase of the former U.S. Steel Canada plants that are now operating under their original name Stelco.

The new contracts maintain wages, benefits, pensions and other terms for 520 members of Local 1005 and 1,100 members of Local 8782. Health benefits will be restored for 800 pensioners from the Nanticoke plant, but approximately 15,000 pensioners and dependants from Local 1005 will receive only partial reinstatement of their benefits.

"These collective agreements are not perfect, however, our members have decided they are the best-possible option in a fundamentally unfair system that does

not prioritize the interests of workers, pensioners and communities," Warren said.

"We will continue to fight for a sustainable Canadian steel industry, to protect jobs, pensions and benefits for our members and for bankruptcy legislation that puts workers and pensioners first," he said.

"Sadly, the federal Liberal government has picked up where the Conservatives left off, abandoning workers and pensioners affected by U.S. Steel's takeover of Stelco and the job cuts and insolvency that followed," he added.

"The Liberals refuse to end the dumping of illegally subsidized foreign steel in Canada. They have offered no meaningful support to workers and pensioners affected by corporate insolvency cases at Stelco, at Essar Steel Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie, at Wabush Mines in Labrador and in many other communities."

CCAA Continues for Sault Steelworkers

Negotiating fair collective agreements for 2,700 members of Steelworkers Locals 2251 and 2724 remains a major stumbling block in the restructuring of Essar Steel Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie.

USW members overwhelmingly rejected concession demands from term lenders that want to acquire the company, which has been under creditor protection since November 2015. ■

