

USW@Work

A magazine for the United Steelworkers

October 2015

**SPECIAL
ELECTION
ISSUE**



2015
make history

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On the cover: NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and USW National Director Ken Neumann at the Labour Day Parade.
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Election 2015

Members can make his

Steelworkers can make his

Now is our chance! Canadians will go to the polls on Monday, October 19.

This will be the most-expensive election ever and the longest campaign since 1872. It will also be one of the most important and exciting.

NDP Leads in the Polls

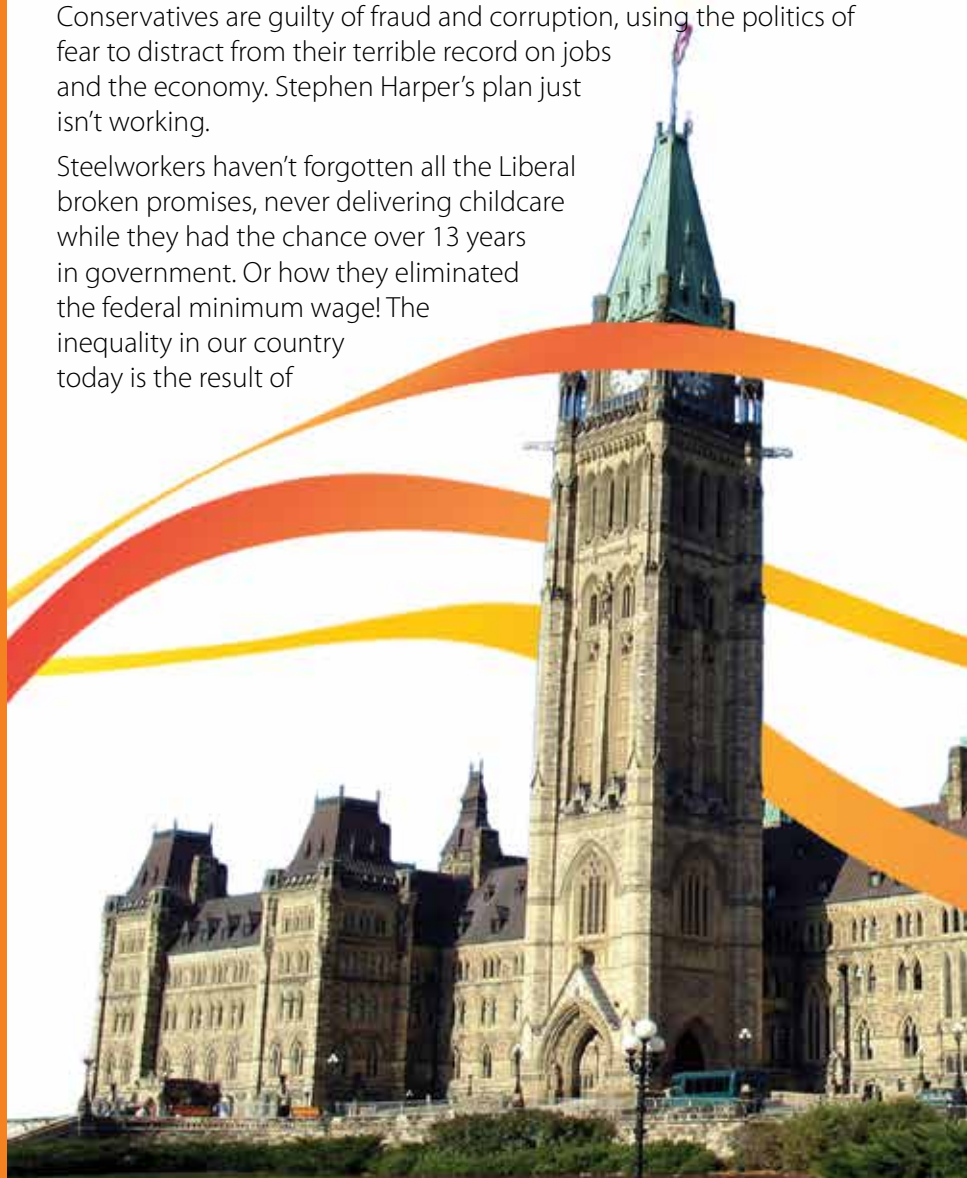
Tom Mulcair and the New Democrats have momentum. The NDP can win! We have the chance in this election to elect Tom Mulcair as our Prime Minister in the first-ever New Democratic federal government, a government on the side of people, communities and workers.

We must not waste this opportunity. We must work harder than ever to support and elect the NDP across Canada, for a stronger middle class and a government that's on our side.

Only the NDP can Beat Harper's Conservatives

Stephen Harper and the Conservatives have had their chance. Harper's Conservatives are guilty of fraud and corruption, using the politics of fear to distract from their terrible record on jobs and the economy. Stephen Harper's plan just isn't working.

Steelworkers haven't forgotten all the Liberal broken promises, never delivering childcare while they had the chance over 13 years in government. Or how they eliminated the federal minimum wage! The inequality in our country today is the result of



the cuts and dismantling of social programs done by previous Liberal governments.

Canadians want change and the NDP is the party that can beat Stephen Harper's Conservatives. Our union and our members played a key role in the incredible New Democratic Party breakthrough in Alberta in May. Now we can build on that momentum and elect a progressive NDP government in Ottawa that's on our side.

Tom Mulcair's NDP: Ready for Change

Tom Mulcair's New Democrats are ready. Ready to bring change. The change we need. A national \$15-a-day affordable childcare program. A \$15 federal minimum wage. Repealing Bill C-51. Abolishing the Senate. A concrete plan for good jobs for the middle class. Retirement security for seniors. A responsible and sustainable approach to the environment. Calling an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.

Steelworkers Make A Difference

Steelworkers make a difference when we vote. Let's work harder than ever. We are proud of our roots supporting the NDP since its founding in 1961. I'm also proud that we have at least four USW members running for the NDP in this election:

- ▶ Erin Weir in Regina-Lewvan
- ▶ Amandeep Nijjar in Vancouver South
- ▶ Scott Duvall in Hamilton Mountain
- ▶ Claude Gravelle re-election in Nickel Belt

Let's support our NDP candidates across the country. Let's volunteer, donate, organize and mobilize our USW members to get involved in the campaign. For a stronger middle class. For a better Canada.

Together, let's join the Orange Wave. Let's make history!

In solidarity,

Ken Neumann

Ken Neumann
National Director

ELECTION 2015

Election Issues

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Our Next Prime Minister

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Choosing Steelworkers

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Stop The Killing

Campaign builds grassroots support p. 20



New Deals, Big Gains

New contracts for TWU-USW and members in Quebec p. 22



\$15 Federal Minimum Wage

100,000 Low-Income Federal Workers Deserve a Raise

No one should work full-time and still fall below the poverty line. Canadian workers and families deserve fair wages and a decent living.

Canadians are working harder than ever and they're tired of being told to settle for less. But that's the message from Stephen Harper's Conservatives and Justin Trudeau's Liberals.

Only Tom Mulcair and the New Democrats will reinstate a federal minimum wage and increase it to \$15 by the end of its first term. Restoring the federal minimum wage is part of the NDP's plan to fight growing income inequality.

A \$15 minimum wage will help tens of thousands of working families in



federally regulated industries such as airports, transportation, banks, broadcasting, telecommunications, fisheries and Crown corporations.

A federal minimum wage would

provide leadership and build momentum to increase wages for workers at the provincial level.

When the NDP proposed a \$15 minimum wage in the House of Commons, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau didn't even show up to vote. Hardly surprising, since it was a Liberal government that actually eliminated the federal minimum wage in the 1990s.

For Stephen Harper, helping the lowest-paid working families isn't even on his radar. He's more interested in tax giveaways to big corporations and his wealthy supporters. ■



Issue sheets @
www.usw.ca/election2015

✓ **NDP**

✗ **Conservatives**

✗ **Liberals**

Who Can Win This Election

All the odds makers say either Stephen Harper or Tom Mulcair will end up Prime Minister after the next election.

For the first time in Canadian history, this election is not a race between Team Blue and Team Red. This time, good money is on Team Orange.

It's not simply Tom Mulcair's strong showing in the polls that suggest he will be our next PM.

The fact is, the vast majority of Quebec has solidified Orange, and Orange is virtually the only colour in B.C. other than a few disappearing Blue seats.

Without Quebec, British Columbia and the industrial heartland of Ontario, Team Red simply isn't in the contest of forming government.

In the last election, Conservatives placed first or second in 231 ridings. New Democrats came first or second in 224 ridings. Team Red



Affordable, Quality Childcare

Good for Families, Good for Our Economy

Too many families struggle to find decent childcare, and when they do, it's expensive. And they're tired of broken promises.

The Liberals promised national childcare in 1991. They had 13 years in power to deliver, but never came through, recycling the same promises in election after election.

In the 1980s, the Mulroney Conservatives also promised a national childcare program and failed to deliver.

Stephen Harper promised Canadians he would create 125,000 new childcare spaces. But he hasn't created even one.

By now Canadians know that only



Tom Mulcair and the NDP can be trusted to deliver affordable childcare for families. We know that affordable, quality childcare is only one election away.

The NDP plan will create or maintain one million quality childcare spaces across the country and keep costs for parents at no more than \$15 a day.

We know it can be done and that investing in childcare is not only good for families, as the Quebec model shows, it's good for our economy.

Our economy grows by \$2 for every \$1 invested in affordable, quality childcare. It gives a strong start for our kids and allows more parents, particularly women, to join the workforce and build our economy. ■



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✗ **Liberals**

was far behind doing so in only 110 ridings.

If Tom Mulcair has more seats in Parliament than Harper after the election, he will become Prime Minister, and Canada will have its first NDP government.

Justin Trudeau says after the election he "will work with **any party** to get good policies."

Therefore, there is a path to victory for Stephen Harper if he gets one more seat than Tom Mulcair.

However, if we can help Mulcair win more seats than Harper, we can make history.

You only get a principled government by voting for a principled party. Only a vote for Tom Mulcair and the NDP can help

us make that history, and retire Stephen Harper forever.

With your help, we can **Make History!**

We're only one election away. ■

2015

make history

166
MPs elected

65
Ridings in 2nd place

Conservatives

103
MPs elected

121
Ridings in 2nd place

NDP

34
MPs elected

76
Ridings in 2nd place

Liberals

2011 Federal Election Results

Retirement Security

Expanding CPP, Protecting Workers' Pensions

Everyone deserves to retire with dignity. However, Canadians aren't saving enough for retirement and many face a massive drop in income when they retire. More than 11 million Canadians don't even have a workplace pension plan.

Pension experts, unions, provincial governments and seniors' organizations all support substantially increasing the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan as the most cost-effective way to help all Canadians retire with dignity. We can double CPP/QPP retirement benefits for the cost of a coffee and donut a day.

Instead of strengthening public pensions, Stephen Harper raised the



age of retirement to 67 and refused calls from the country's premiers to bolster the CCP/QPP.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he supports enhancing the Canada

Pension Plan. But can he be trusted to make good on such promises? Previous Liberal governments, just like the Harper Conservatives, repeatedly failed workers and pensioners by doing nothing to protect private pensions in corporate bankruptcy cases.

Only Tom Mulcair and the NDP can be trusted to restore the age of retirement to 65; to boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement; to expand the Canada and Quebec pension plans; and to protect workers' pensions when their company goes bankrupt. ■



Issue sheets @
www.usw.ca/election2015

✓ **NDP**

✗ **Conservatives**

? **Liberals**



Voting Guide

Online Election Tools

Steelworkers make a difference when we vote! Visit the Steelworkers Vote Election 2015 website for Steelworkers Vote election materials, links to connect to your local NDP campaign, Elections Canada information and more.

USW Election 2015 website:
www.usw.ca/election2015

Advance Voting

If you can, avoid the rush and vote early. Advance polls are not as busy and some of the advance polls are held over the weekend. Find dates and locations for advance voting on the Elections Canada website www.elections.ca or from links on our USW Election 2015 website www.usw.ca/election2015.

Bring Identification

NEW: You can use the Elections Canada website to confirm that you are registered to vote:
www.elections.ca.

You need identification when you go to vote. Bring one piece of identification with your photo, name and address, for example, your driver's licence. Or bring two pieces, one with your name, and one with your name and address, for example, your health card and a hydro bill. Visit the Elections Canada website to see a list of acceptable identification: www.elections.ca.

You do not have to be on the voters' list to vote. You can take identification with you to the polling station, register and vote on election day.



Repeal C-51

Protecting Our Rights and Freedoms

Unions believe in our constitutional rights, freedom of association and freedom of expression. We have always fought for fundamental human rights and freedoms for all.

Steelworkers, like most Canadians, oppose Harper's secret spy bill, C-51, that was rubberstamped by the Liberals and that weakens our rights and freedoms and hinders our lawful expression.

We oppose measures that prevent Canadians from voicing their opinions. The price of security should not be our civil rights.

In fact, while Harper's secret spy bill enables a surveillance state and



violates basic freedoms, security experts have concluded it does not make us safer.

As Tom Mulcair says, we don't have to choose between security and our rights.

That's a false choice – we can protect both.

But when it came time to defend Canadians' rights and principles, Justin Trudeau and his Liberal MPs voted yes to C-51. Justin Trudeau did not stand up to Stephen Harper.

Tom Mulcair and all New Democratic MPs voted against Harper's secret spy bill.

And only Tom Mulcair and the NDP have pledged to repeal Bill C-51.

It's no wonder Canadians are saying they're ready for change and strong, principled leadership in Ottawa. ■



Issue sheets @ www.usw.ca/election2015

✓ **NDP**

✗ **Conservatives**

✗ **Liberals**



Election Day: Monday, October 19

Polls are open for 12 hours on Election Day, Monday, October 19.

By law, everyone who is eligible to vote must have three consecutive hours to cast their vote on election day. If your hours of work do not allow for three consecutive hours to vote, your employer must give you time off.

Help Your NDP Campaign

Steelworkers are known for our

activism for the NDP. Unions can no longer make donations to the NDP federally, so we encourage our members to volunteer and make individual donations. Bring a friend or co-worker with you and help out in your local NDP campaign.

- ▶ Distribute and post Steelworkers Vote election posters in your workplace.
- ▶ Organize Steelworker plant gates to distribute Steelworkers Vote campaign materials.

- ▶ Invite your NDP candidate to a union meeting, event or plant gate.
- ▶ Include information on your local NDP candidate and USW election issues in your newsletters, emails, website and Facebook page.
- ▶ Talk to your friends and family about voting pro-labour.
- ▶ Pledge to vote NDP at www.usw.ca/election2015. ■

Closing CEO Tax Loopholes

Ending Handouts to Wealthy, Tackling Child Poverty

In 1989, the House of Commons unanimously passed a resolution to end child poverty in Canada.

For 26 years, successive Liberal and Conservative governments have failed miserably to address – let alone eliminate – child poverty. In fact, while Liberals and Conservatives have taken turns cutting social programs, the incidence of child poverty in our country has actually become worse.

At the same time, Liberal and Conservative governments have been competing with each other to give massive tax handouts to corporations and the wealthy. Only Tom Mulcair and the New



Democrats have a concrete plan to address growing inequality, including closing tax loopholes for CEOs and using the proceeds to finally tackle child poverty.

Under the NDP plan, every dollar generated from closing tax loopholes for rich executives will be transferred directly to programs to help low-income families and kids, such as the Working Income Tax Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement.

“This will be a dollar-for-dollar transfer in benefits from those who need it the least to those who need it the most,” Tom Mulcair says.

Tackling child poverty and inequality will not only help kids and families, it will help strengthen our economy. ■



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✓ **NDP**

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✗ **Liberals**

Tom Mulcair

Principled. Experienced. Our next Prime Minister.

Tom Mulcair is generating excitement and momentum for the NDP at Ready for Change rallies in communities across the country.

The middle-class values that have guided Tom Mulcair as a father, grandfather and cabinet minister will guide him as Canada's next Prime Minister.

Alongside Jack Layton, Tom was one of the architects of the 2011 'orange wave' that elected 103 NDP MPs. First elected to the House of Commons in 2007, Tom represents the Montreal riding of Outremont.

“Our offer to Canadians is clear: A government that stands up for middle-class families – one that ensures young people get the opportunities they need and seniors get the benefits they deserve.”

– Tom Mulcair

Seen as the best parliamentarian in a generation, Tom Mulcair is ready to replace Stephen Harper as Prime Minister and form the first-ever NDP government. ■





Erin WEIR
Regina-Lewvan
A respected advocate for working people

“Continuing evidence of a weak Canadian labour market underscores the need for public investment in important services and infrastructure to help create jobs.”

– Erin Weir

Erin Weir is a nationally respected Steelworker economist and media commentator often sought out for his progressive analysis of key economic issues.

Erin has consistently stood up for the interests of working people and for building stronger communities. He is a fierce advocate for enhancing Employment Insurance,

the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security and for greater investments in public transit and infrastructure, renewable power and sustainable development to create good, green jobs.

Prior to joining the Steelworkers, Erin worked as an economist with the federal Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Finance and the Privy Council Office, as well as the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Trade Union Confederation.

A lifelong New Democrat, Erin has the experience and commitment to be a strong voice for Regina-Lewvan and fight for the issues that matter in his community – good jobs, quality affordable childcare, a cleaner environment and better public health care. ■

STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY • STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY

Megan Leslie is a passionate politician who brings a unique and creative approach to her work advocating for fairness for middle-class families. First elected in 2008, she has gained a reputation as a smart, charismatic Member of Parliament, praised for her ability to get things done.

Megan is a prominent figure within the NDP, one of the youngest Deputy Leaders ever! She has earned many accolades, including Best Rookie MP by *Maclean's*, the Holly House Heroes Award for helping the homeless and Best Activist by *The Coast* newspaper.

Megan proposed a national pharmacare bill that could save billions of dollars through bulk purchasing. She is a vocal activist for women's rights and often raises consciousness about equality issues



Megan LESLIE
Halifax
A Champion for Women in Politics

I have no interest in being a lawyer and I don't care about [the status of] being an MP. This has not been a life-long ambition of mine – the life-long ambition is using the law to make Canada a better place for people who are marginalized.”

– Megan Leslie, [Daily Xtra, 2009]

in the legal community. Growing up in a middle-class family in the mining community of Kirkland Lake, Ont., Megan identifies with the issues and struggles that

workers face. Megan is fighting Stephen Harper's attack on workers by advocating for financial stability for families and fixing the Employment Insurance system. ■



**Charmaine
BORG**

**Terrebonne-
Blainville**

Defending Privacy Rights in the Digital Age

Before being elected as an MP, I was proud to have worked for a union representing young casual workers. Today, I am proud to be representing a party that stands alongside workers across the country."

– Charmaine Borg

In 2011, 21-year-old Charmaine Borg became one of the youngest women ever to get elected to the House of Commons. She has since

won praise from her constituents as one of the most determined and enthusiastic MPs in Parliament.

Tom Mulcair appointed Charmaine as the Digital Issues Critic, making her the youngest full critic ever. One of her first acts, as a member of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics, was launching a study to investigate the privacy practices of social media companies.

Charmaine's Bill C-475 was designed to protect Canadian citizens by making it mandatory for organizations to report breaches of security that could cause possible harm. The Conservatives voted against the bill.

Charmaine was a leader in the fight against Bill C-30, which would have allowed for warrantless surveillance online. After months of campaigning, she helped force the Conservative government to scrap the bill. ■

STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY • STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY



**Alexandre
BOULERICE**

**Rosemont
La Petite-Patrie**

Standing Up for Workers and the Middle Class

"I've always stood up for fairness and respect. In my union local, I led several battles to improve working conditions for workers with precarious jobs. It makes me proud that, as an MP, I can defend workers in the House of Commons."

– Alexandre Boulerice

Alexandre Boulerice is an outspoken advocate for workers' rights and the middle class. Alexandre has served as Official

Opposition Critic for the Treasury Board and most recently has been the Official Opposition's Labour Critic and Deputy Critic on Ethics.

He has come to prominence as one of the country's fiercest and most eloquent critics of the Conservative government's destructive attacks on working people and the labour movement.

Alexandre also has been a strong advocate for protecting the rights of pregnant and lactating women, introducing a bill to protect their jobs and benefits when they must leave work to protect their health or their children's health. The bill was opposed by Conservatives and Liberals.

A former journalist, Alexandre was a dedicated union activist. He also worked closely with a community group that defends injured workers' rights.

The grandson of a Steelworker, Alexandre comes by his labour activism honestly. ■



**Scott
DUVALL**
Hamilton
Mountain
Inspired by Union Education

"The support of my USW brothers and sisters has been invaluable in each election I've fought. We share a commitment to affordable childcare, a national housing strategy, decent pensions and good paying jobs in our community."

– Scott Duvall

Scott Duvall's 30-year career as a Steelworker began in the oil temper of an old Stelco wire mill

called Canada Works. He decided to get involved with the union and worked his way up the ranks from

steward to president. Building many lifelong friendships along the way, Scott credits his success to many of the "outstanding" education programs that are provided by the Steelworkers.

In 2006, Scott was elected as a city councillor in Hamilton. He has built a reputation as a strong community leader dedicated to representing and giving a voice to working people.

"My experience as President of USW Locals 3250 and 5328 has served me well. I will always be indebted to the Steelworkers for the opportunities that came my way, giving me the motivation and confidence to work on behalf of the broader community," says Scott. ■

STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY • STRONG CANDIDATES MAKING HISTORY



**Amandeep
NIJJAR**
Vancouver
South
*100% for Steel
Community Activist and Woman*

"I'm thrilled to bring my union activism to the table as an NDP candidate. Under Tom Mulcair's leadership, our team will defend workers, restore a \$15 federal minimum wage and protect free and fair collective bargaining."

– Amandeep Nijjar

USW member Amandeep Nijjar is a young leader ready to bring positive change to her community.

Amandeep is committed to working with Tom Mulcair to deliver results for families, rather than being left

behind by governments that don't listen.

Amandeep is a Woman of Steel! She works in the finance department of COPE 378, a union of 12,000 workers, where staff is represented by the USW.

"The USW's leadership development program helped me step forward in the NDP as the voice for Vancouver South," she says.

A mother of two daughters, Amandeep helped improve safety in her community by working on a campaign for new traffic lights near schools. She is dedicated to giving kids across Canada as many opportunities as possible, by fighting for quality health care, affordable childcare, accessible post-secondary education and good jobs. ■

USW Activists Ma



Shelley Siemens

Shelley Siemens wants to make a difference. Besides working on the 2013 B.C. provincial election, where her candidate Claire Trevena was elected NDP MLA for the North Island, Shelley herself ran in B.C.'s last municipal election for a council seat in Port Hardy. She lost by a mere 52 votes.

“Mobilizing also means making sure people don’t get caught without proper identification to vote”

“That won’t happen twice!” warns Shelley.

In this federal election she’s doing whatever she can to elect NDP candidate Rachel Blaney in North Island–Powell River, a large area of coastal B.C. and Vancouver Island. Shelley is working evenings and weekends to build support in several communities, including First Nations.

“Mobilizing also means making sure people don’t get caught without proper identification to vote,” she says. “The Conservatives’ Unfair Elections Act is hurting my community.”

Shelley clearly has a lot of energy and has been using it to build the union as well as growing her political activism. As an aquaculture grader in USW Local 1-1937, Shelley has worked to organize two neighbouring fish plants and is on her local’s Division 2 executive.

“I have learned a lot about what it takes to build a community,” she says. “In my view it takes a strong union and a true partner in politics. That means electing New Democrats.” ■



George Gillis

George Gillis thinks being an activist is just plain common sense. He has been president of USW Local 1105 for eight years and grew up in Hamilton where being a union member came naturally.

“Working on NDP campaigns is all part of the same struggle for fairness and quality of life,” George says, adding that volunteering means doing whatever is required to make sure that New Democrats are elected and that the party is in a position to become government.

“My motivation is simple. Nothing will ever change if I just sit around, watching and griping.”

“A collective agreement means dignity at work, and volunteering for the NDP will help secure a future for that to continue. No other party does that.”

Sitting around is definitely not what George has been doing all these years. He has been to the Labour College of Canada, been part of the Steelworkers’ Leadership Development Program, was the USW District 6 coordinator for the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Fairness Works campaign and has been a USW staff representative in Hamilton.

“I believe working people deserve a fighting chance to have a decent standard of living. A collective agreement means dignity at work, and volunteering for the NDP will help secure a future for that to continue. No other party does that.” ■

“We need to be politically a



making a Difference



Fred Girling

Fred Girling has been around the block. Lots of them. He has knocked on doors in numerous campaigns, was the official agent for NDP candidates and served as president of two USW locals before retiring and taking on the role of secretary-treasurer for SOAR Chapter 3-14, whose members live throughout B.C.'s Lower Mainland.

"I'm more concerned about losing health care than I am about terrorism. Real terrorism is not having a roof over your head or enough to eat."

"Being an activist isn't about keeping busy in retirement," says Fred. "The job simply isn't done. We can never sit back and let somebody else do the work. The struggle to preserve our rights and our communities is never-ending. And I definitely don't want to trust my retirement to Liberals and Conservatives."

Fred says he is happy to see more young people getting involved generally as union and political activists.

"Good unionized jobs are getting harder to find and young people are not having good jobs handed to them on a platter. The fight to create an economy that works for everyone is a political struggle.

"For me the future is about pension security, not the security that the Conservatives are talking about. I'm more concerned about losing health care than I am about terrorism. Real terrorism is not having a roof over your head or enough to eat." ■



John Gagnon

These days, John Gagnon is working as an organizer in New Brunswick for USW District 6. The former president of Steelworkers Local 5385 at the now-closed Brunswick Mine has been an tireless activist for more than 30 years, both inside the union and in politics.

John was instrumental in first electing and re-electing fellow Steelworker Yvon Godin, MP for Acadie-Bathurst since 1997. Yvon Godin has now retired and John is campaigning for NDP candidate Jason Godin (no relation), the 22-year-old mayor of Maisonnette. John also is working on two other NDP campaigns in the province.

"I believe in the NDP and the labour movement as partners in building a more just and equitable Canada," says John. "Labour is not some lobby group. We need to be politically active to protect our rights as workers and citizens."

"I believe in the NDP and the labour movement as partners in building a more just and equitable Canada."

John's commitment has also led him to be a long-time member of the executive of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour and President of the Bathurst and District Labour Council. He is also a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees and is on the board of directors of the Chaleur Region Homeless Shelter. ■

ctive to protect our rights."



THE LEADERS

Had His Chance



Stephen Harper

We can't risk more damage with Stephen Harper's failed policies.

Canada is slipping: increased inequality, a disgraceful environmental record and a faltering economy. Today, 200,000 more Canadians are out of work than before the recession.

As prime minister, Stephen Harper has the worst job-creation record since the Second World War and the worst economic-growth record since the Great Depression. Under Harper, the government has run eight straight deficits and added \$150 billion to the national debt.

Harper shut down Parliament a record four times to avoid scandal and duck the issues. He dissolved

Not for Workers



Justin Trudeau

Lack of judgment has plagued Justin Trudeau since becoming Liberal leader in 2013. Trudeau voted for Harper's secret-spy Bill C-51 and kicked Liberal senators out of his caucus while proposing to keep the Senate.

Trudeau's Liberals voted with Stephen Harper's Conservatives to defeat numerous bills and motions that would have supported workers including supporting Conservative back-to-work legislation for Air Canada and Canada Post workers in 2011.

The Orange Wave



Tom Mulcair

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair is principled, experienced and ready to replace Stephen Harper and bring change to Ottawa. Mulcair is gaining the trust and support of Canadians with his concrete proposals to help families get ahead.

The second eldest of 10 children, Mulcair was raised on middle-class values. As a teenager, he went to work to help his family make ends meet.

Mulcair has consistently stood up for workers, opposing Harper's anti-worker laws and instead



This election is about leadership. Which of the three main party leaders will best represent the interests of workers, middle-class Canadians and chart a path for good jobs and putting our economy back on track?

Parliament six weeks early when he called the longest election since 1872.

- Direct attacks on labour and unions with Bill C-377 and Bill C-525
- Fraud and corruption convictions including a former MP and a party operative sentenced to jail
- Ongoing Senate scandal
- Anti-democratic: buried legislation and stifled debate with 700-page omnibus bills
- Instead of helping middle-class families make ends meet, tax breaks for the wealthy

- Raised retirement age from 65 to 67
- Bad for workers, bad for the economy ■

“I ask whether the creation of economic growth, and therefore jobs, really is the number one policy priority for everyone.”

Stephen Harper
World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 2012

Trudeau hasn't lived up to expectations. Unsure of his priorities, Trudeau is not up to defeating Stephen Harper.

- Voted with Stephen Harper's Conservatives to pass secret-spy Bill C-51
- Voted against interim measures to clean up spending and partisanship in the Senate
- Liberal legacy of cuts to social programs, Employment Insurance (EI)
- Liberals had 13 years in power to introduce a

promised national childcare program and failed to do so

- Liberals eliminated the federal minimum wage in 1996 and under Trudeau's plan, no one gets a raise ■

“Perhaps it was naive.”

– Justin Trudeau on voting with Stephen Harper to pass Bill C-51

proposed ways to build a stronger middle class. He has integrity. Mulcair resigned as Environment Minister in the Quebec government over a matter of principle.

Mulcair has stood up to Stephen Harper, holding his feet to the fire over the Senate scandal. As Prime Minister, Mulcair will be on our side, fighting for workers and middle-class families.

- Most effective parliamentarian in a generation
- Concrete plan for good jobs and kick-starting the economy
- \$15 minimum wage

- \$15-a-day national childcare program
- Will restore retirement age to 65
- Will call an inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls
- Will repeal Bill C-51 ■

“A stronger labour movement means a stronger Canada.”

– Tom Mulcair at the
2014 Canadian Labour Congress Convention

Steelworkers Confer

STRONG Union Community



USW District 6 Director with Steelworkers at the community day in Sault Ste. Marie.

The August gathering in Sault Ste. Marie was one of the largest District 6 conferences ever. More than 400 delegates made the trek to the Sault, where the week was like no other in Steelworkers history.

District 6 Director Marty Warren was determined that delegates would not just sit in a conference room for five days listening to a parade of speakers. Instead, the conference included a full day of community work, in which delegates painted, repaired, did landscaping, served food, handed out school supplies and backpacks and gave back to the community.

The week-long conference also included a partnership with two local First Nations, Batchewana and Garden

Building Strength Through Understanding

In July, a National Workshop for Aboriginal Steelworkers fulfilled a resolution to the 2013 National Policy Conference to improve representation of our Aboriginal members, to build solidarity with Aboriginal groups and communities

and to make meaningful improvements that respect traditions and aspirations.

More than 60 participants to the Winnipeg event were from First Nations, Métis, Innu, Inuit and non-

status communities from across Canada. They shared insights, ideas and goals for the future of the union, of their relationships with non-Aboriginal Steelworkers and much more. ■



ences Draw Crowds

River, which is expected to continue into the future.

Warren praised the work of the conference planning committee, especially local union leaders and staff in Sault Ste. Marie, who organized the charitable venues, got donations of materials for the jobs that were done and put together a free barbecue, entertainment and fireworks on the last day of the conference.

"We know what it means to belong to a community," said Warren. "Solidarity is about more than collective bargaining. Those of us who belong to a union like the Steelworkers – we are the lucky ones. We want to give back to communities that support us when we find ourselves in struggles for our rights. This was part of that. Together with political change, which we fight for to improve the lives of everyone, showing solidarity with our friends and neighbours in need is just as important." ■

Steelworkers Urge Alberta to Stop the Killing



Three recent USW events celebrated the union's diversity and community involvement, as well as welcoming a new provincial premier, whose resume includes membership in the USW.

More than 250 Steelworkers in Western Canada took part in the District 3 Conference held in Edmonton in April. District 3 Director Stephen Hunt challenged delegates to continue the pressure on all levels of government to Stop the Killing, Enforce the Law. This ongoing national campaign aims to change the dismal workplace death and injury record through better enforcement and prosecution under changes to the Criminal Code that the union fought for and won back in 2003-04.

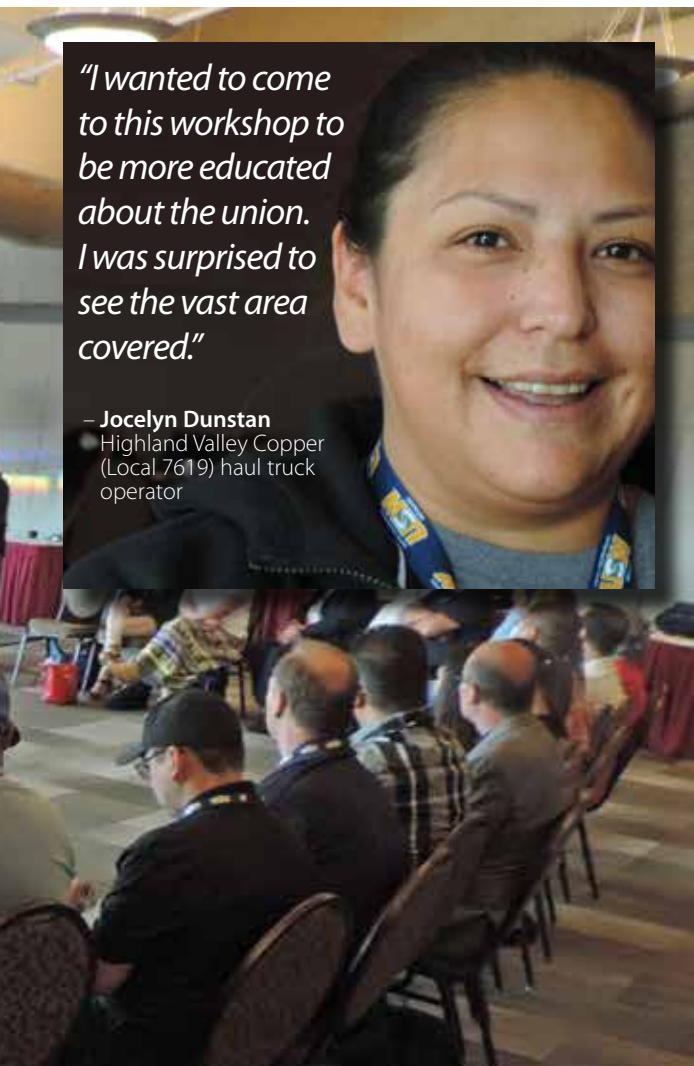
Along with continuing the struggle to understand and put an end to the exploitation of non-citizen workers under the completely flawed Temporary Foreign Workers Program, conference delegates were encouraged to get signatures added to a petition for a public inquiry into two deadly sawmill explosions in B.C. The petition can be signed online at www.usw.ca/inquiry.

Conference organizers were more than pleasantly surprised to discover that their chosen venue, Edmonton, would be celebrating the first-ever election of an NDP government, after a lifetime of Conservative rule in the province. The new NDP premier, Rachel Notley, was on hand to meet delegates and remind them that she was a USW member when she worked as a Labour Relations Officer for the United Nurses of Alberta.

Local 2009 activist Doug Tingley was awarded for his outstanding service to his local, the NDP, and for fundraising to support victims of disasters in the Philippines and Pakistan. ■

"I wanted to come to this workshop to be more educated about the union. I was surprised to see the vast area covered."

– **Jocelyn Dunstan**
Highland Valley Copper
(Local 7619) haul truck
operator



ACTION!



USW National Women's Conference

November 1- 4, 2015
Vancouver

Register today at www.usw.ca/women2015

Join your Women of Steel colleagues from across Canada as we build on our remarkable achievements and set an ambitious agenda for activism. In our workplaces and our communities, Women of Steel are leaders in moving the equality agenda forward.

Registration: \$345

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ACTION!

For an end to violence

For good jobs

For leadership



American Airlines–US Airways Employees Choose Steelworkers

American Airlines-US Airways employees in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto have chosen the United Steelworkers, rather than Unifor, as their union.

In a vote mandated by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB), over 68% of the airlines' employees favoured the Steelworkers to represent them in their workplaces. The CIRB ordered the vote following the American Airlines-US Airways merger. Prior to the vote, the Steelworkers represented 112 US Airways employees while 120 American Airlines employees were members of Unifor.

The employees, who now work

under the American Airlines banner, are members of USW Local 1976. They work in customer service, at ticket counters, airport kiosks and in baggage handling.

"We are delighted and honoured that these hard-working employees have overwhelmingly chosen the Steelworkers as their union," said USW National Director Ken Neumann.

"We welcome these new members and we will continue to provide the best representation to ensure all our members work in safe conditions, are paid a good wage with decent benefits and are treated fairly and respectfully at work." ■



USW Campaign Gains Momentum Ahead of Election



Support is building across Canada for the United Steelworkers campaign to enforce a law that holds corporations criminally accountable where negligence leads to workplace death.

Stop The Killing, Enforce The Law demands that provincial and federal politicians make good on their commitments by taking proactive steps to improve the health and safety of workers and enforce the Westray Law.

USW activists have gone community by community to build grassroots, local support for the campaign – and the results speak for themselves. From small towns in the interior of British Columbia to big cities like Toronto, over 50 municipal councils have endorsed our union’s campaign.

Following up on this work, the USW recently attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in Edmonton, attended by mayors and councillors from across the country.

USW activists were at the FCM conference to put workers’ health and safety front and centre. Steelworkers spoke to hundreds of locally elected officials, raising their

awareness of our campaign and obtaining commitments of support.

Now as the most important federal election in our lifetime approaches, our members will make the health and safety of workers an election issue. Too many families have needlessly lost loved ones, too many lives have been changed forever and too many support groups have been born out of tragedy.

Still today, approximately 1,000 Canadians die at work each year and too often the response from

the authorities is finger pointing and excuse making. The recent sawmill explosions in northern B.C. that claimed four lives and injured countless others serve as a solemn reminder of how much further we have to go.

Steelworkers believe that every worker who goes to work deserves to come home and during this election, we’re working harder than ever to elect a NDP government that shares that belief. ■

**STOP THE
KILLING.
ENFORCE
THE LAW.**

One of the Steelworkers' largest – and newest – locals is entering an important round of collective bargaining this fall with telecommunications giant Telus.

Over 10,000 members of TWU, USW National Local 1944 are seeking a new collective agreement with Telus. The existing contract, which expires Dec. 31, covers over 4,300 members in British Columbia, 2,900 in Alberta, 1,200 in Ontario and 1,600 in Quebec.

TWU, USW National Local 1944 members work as technicians, engineers, tradespersons and in a wide array of clerical and administrative jobs in sales, customer support and customer service at Telus.

“Good bargaining is always based on active engagement of members,” says Lee Riggs, TWU, USW Local 1944 President.

“We are building excitement and solidarity within our membership and we’ll be using new methods to communicate with our members throughout the bargaining process.”

This past spring close to 300 rank-and-file members working for Telus took part in the USW’s Building Power training program. USW Communications Action Teams (CATs) are now set up in Telus workplaces across the country.

At the TWU, USW National Local 1944 Bargaining Convention in September in Montreal, delegates discussed bargaining priorities and provided feedback to their bargaining committee. Prior to the convention, the CATs reached out to the entire membership with informative pamphlets and a bargaining survey, giving all members an opportunity to provide input.

In August, this commitment to membership engagement and participation resulted in a new

collective agreement for over 500 members of Unit 60 of TWU, USW National Local 1944 who work at Shaw Cable in B.C.’s Lower Mainland.

“Our bargaining committee members worked extremely hard and were committed to a respectful and transparent process. They achieved a collective agreement that benefits the members and is reflective of their priorities,” says Tamara Marshall, Local Union Representative for Unit 60. ■



TWU, USW Local 1944 Telus Bargaining Committee (left to right): Front row: Steve Kiernan, Local 1944 President Lee Riggs, Denise Chisholm; middle row: Guy Mousseau, Local Union Representative Jenn Bucholtz; back row: Greg Kadey, Lance Trevison, Candace Knoll, Maxime Deveau, Steve McWhirter, Ivor Labrador.



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New **Steelworkers** Make **Big Gains** at **Comfort Inn**

Newly organized Steelworkers at Comfort Inn hotels in five Quebec communities have overwhelmingly ratified their first collective agreements, achieving significant improvements in wages and other areas.

The hotel workers in Sept-Îles, Baie-Comeau, Chicoutimi, Rimouski and Rouyn-Noranda negotiated similar agreements that provide total wage increases of 10% including an immediate six-per-cent raise. Other improvements include increased vacation entitlement and the creation of a new registered retirement plan with employer contributions equivalent to 4% of workers' wages.

The new Steelworkers have already begun to reap the benefits of USW membership and collective bargaining, said Kory Labonté, Bargaining Unit President for the Comfort Inn workers in Rouyn-Noranda.

"After we joined the union, it soon became clear that our efforts were well worth it. We all stand together, like one big family," she said. ■



New Steelworkers at five Comfort Inn hotels in Quebec have made big gains in their first contract.



Unique Deal for Montreal Airport Security Officers

Making the employer pay for withholding rest breaks is a unique improvement in a new contract for 700 Steelworkers at Montreal's Dorval airport.

The employer's past failures to ensure rest breaks was a major issue at the

bargaining table for the USW members, who work as airport security screeners and training officers.

The Steelworkers' new collective agreement with Securitas Transport Aviation Security entrenches rest breaks and forces the employer to pay workers sums of up to \$150 when breaks are denied.

The three-year agreement also provides total wage increases of 6.45%, a signing bonus and increased vacation entitlement including six weeks of vacation after 15 years of service. ■



"It's time to recognize the profession and modernize the industry to better respond to the public's needs and help ensure that those who work in the industry can make a decent living."

Benoit Jugand
RTAM spokesperson

Thousands of taxi workers demonstrated in communities across Quebec in August, protesting against Uber's 'black market' service and calling on Liberal Premier Philippe Couillard's government to clarify its position on the issue.

The demonstrations sprung up soon after Couillard suggested he was open to legalizing Uber, angering taxi workers affected by the unregulated American company's unfair competition.

The widespread protests drew a quick response from Quebec's government, with Transportation Minister Robert Poëti making a statement on the same day. Poëti reaffirmed his view that Uber's services are illegal and that the company is engaging in unfair competition.

The public protests were organized by

industry groups including the Regroupement des travailleurs autonomes Métallos (RTAM), a workers' association affiliated with the Steelworkers in Quebec. More than 22,000 Quebec families depend on the taxi industry for their livelihoods.

Taxi workers recommend industry modernization

With Quebec reviewing its taxi legislation for the first time since 2001, the RTAM has submitted a brief to the government with several recommendations to improve services and modernize the industry.

The RTAM's brief to the government calls for the creation of a professional

association and a code of conduct for taxi workers and owners, improvements in training and testing, a vehicle assessment program, improved technology and a more flexible fare system for rural areas.

"It's time to recognize the profession and modernize the industry to better respond to the public's needs and help ensure that those who work in the industry can make a decent living," said RTAM spokesperson Benoit Jugand. ■

Quebec Taxi Workers Stage Day of Action





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