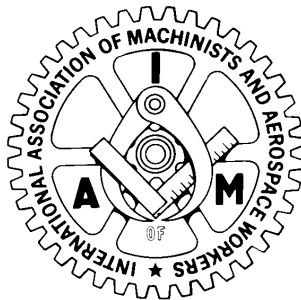
**ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETING**Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:15 PM

At the Ajax Legion Hall • 111 Hunt St. Ajax

**LOCAL 905 EXECUTIVE**

President	Dave Thompson
Vice President	Dan Robertson
Secretary	Doris Duck
Financial Secretary	Kris Socha
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Trustees	Daryl Rowe Pavel Blaha Rasheed Houssain
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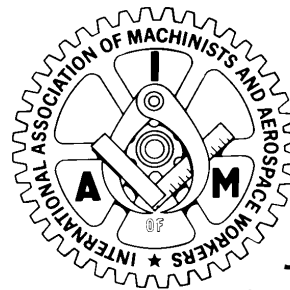
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MAY 2011

**JUSTICE ON THE JOB,  
SECURITY FOR THE FAMILY  
AND  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

**Celebrating Asian Heritage Month**

Brother Ken Ngai and Brother Ron Munarriz working on a  
Global Express Landing Gear.



## Congratulations

A lucky member name was drawn at random from the LL905 membership list by the executive committee, to receive 2 tickets to the 15th Annual Dave Ritchie Invitational Golf Tournament to be held at the Remington Parkview Golf & Country Club on Saturday, June 11, 2011.

Winner: Eduardo Briones

### Editor

## Work days around the world

Mexicans work the longest days and Belgians the shortest, according to a study of 29 industrialized countries released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The stereotype of a laid-back manana culture was turned on its head by the OECD's "Society at a Glance" study, which showed Mexicans toil for 10 hours a day on average in paid and unpaid work, such as household chores. Belgians work just seven, an hour less than the average in most other OECD countries.

The study is based on surveys of people between the ages of 15 and 64 in 26 OECD member countries plus China, India and South Africa.

The surveys required people to say what they were doing every five minutes or so over the course of the day. The poll covered people in retirement or on days off from work, meaning the averages are skewed by countries with more generous holiday allowances or earlier retirement ages.

In Mexico, where tens of millions toil in an informal grey economy, low-paid workers often take only a handful of days off a year and work until they are elderly. A typical Belgian, on the other hand, will take several weeks of holiday a year and enjoy early retirement at around age 60.

### Internet/CALM

## CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE IN 905 DURING MAY

43 Years	Peter J Bowe	9 Years	Robert Christmas
25 Years	Gary Burns	7 Years	Lolita Gershfeld
25 Years	Shawn Giguere	6 Years	Thomas Gillespie
24 Years	George Gaffney	5 Years	Lynn McKenzie
22 Years	Peter Ferreira	4 Years	Elaine Scott
22 Years	Shane Kingston	4 Years	Matthew Bolton
22 Years	John MacKenzie	4 Years	Chris Galt
21 Years	Lowell Harford	3 Years	April Fickling
21 Years	Mario Macam	3 Years	Jason Gemmell
21 Years	Andrew Malinowski		
21 Years	Peter Silarajs		
16 Years	Tim Alexander		
16 Years	Jacqueline Allen		
16 Years	Shelley Chapman		
16 Years	David Mitton		
16 Years	Deanna Spence		
16 Years	Douglas Teske		
13 Years	Lisa Cormack		
13 Years	Jeff Shearer		
11 Years	Pavel Blaha		
10 Years	Kenneth Scott		



## Get Well Soon

**Mike Bennie**

**Derek Bond**

**Angela D'angelo**

**Jamie Farr**

**Delfin Flores**

**George Gaffney**

**Martin Price**

**Pauline Reilly**

**Douglas Teske**



Years of Service during April

3 Years Alan Brown

"We have heard so much talk about the Orange Wave and you can't deny the results of that momentum," said Ritchie. "But waves come in and waves can go out and the challenge now is to build upon that wave because we still have much work to do."

"We realize by the polling numbers that just over 60 per cent of eligible voters in our three largest provinces of Québec, Ontario and British Columbia, actually cast ballots. So there's still a significant number of Canadians that we need to reach," explained Ritchie.

"The challenge to our members and their families is to stay involved. We have 102 members in Ottawa, including 66 rookies that are going to be your voice in Parliament. I encourage our members to get acquainted with these MP's, share your ideas and concerns with them and above all, give them your support," said Ritchie.

## IAM

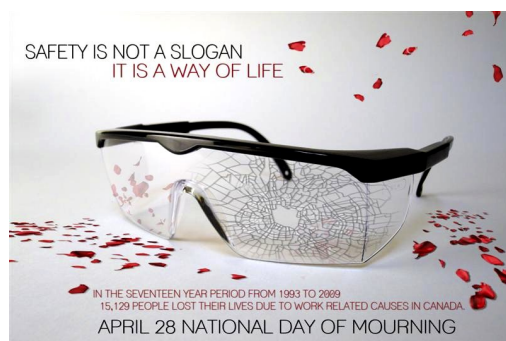
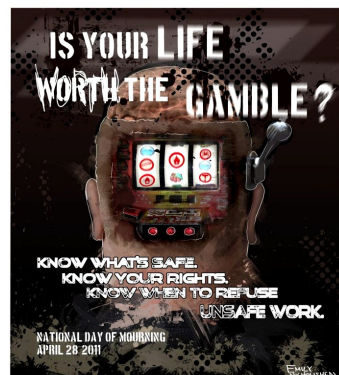
Continue from page 7.

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## Colour code keeps workers out of good jobs

Despite an increasingly diverse population, a new report on Canada's racialized income gap shows the colour code is still at work in Canada's labour market.

Canada's Colour Coded Labour Market, co-produced by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Wellesley Institute, draws on 2006 census data to compare work and income trends among racialized and non-racialized Canadians. It's among the more comprehensive post-census studies on this issue to date.

"We found that during the heyday of Canada's pre-recession economic boom, racialized Canadians were more willing to work, but experienced higher levels of unemployment and earned less income than non-racialized Canadians," says co-author Grace-Edward Galabuzi, CCPA board member and Ryerson University professor.

"The distribution of work tells a disturbing story: Equal access to opportunity eludes many racialized Canadians."

Co-author Sheila Block, director of economic analysis at the Wellesley Institute, says racialized Canadian workers earned only 81.4 cents for every dollar paid to non-racialized Canadian workers—reflecting barriers in Canada's workplaces.

"The work racialized Canadians are able to attain is more likely to be insecure, temporary and low paying," Block says. "Despite an increasingly diverse population, a colour code is firmly in place."

Among the study's findings:

- In 2006, during the boom years, racialized Canadians had an unemployment rate of 8.6 per cent, as compared to 6.2 per cent for non-racialized Canadians.

- On average, non-racialized Canadian earnings grew marginally (2.7 per cent) from 2000-2005—tepid income gains considering the economy grew by 13.1 per cent. But the average income of racialized Canadians declined by 0.2 per cent.
- Racialized workers are over-represented in industries with precarious low-paid jobs; they are under-represented in public administration and more likely to work in the hard-hit light manufacturing sector.
- The colour code contributes to much higher poverty levels. In 2005, 19.8 per cent of racialized families lived in poverty, compared to 6.4 per cent of non-racialized families.

**CCPA/CALM**

## **Plant closure victims: Second-career grads**

Hundreds of former Progressive Moulded Products workers in Ontario celebrated graduating from second-career programs in an official ceremony in March.

The story of the PMP workers is a triumph against all odds—a successful tale of a group of people putting their lives back together after a sudden workplace closure, with government, educational institutions, community groups and unions all working together.

More than 170 former PMP workers received their certificates of achievement. The group is a part of the 700 PMP workers who have completed Second Career or upgrading programs since January 2010. Many have found work after graduating.

On July 1, 2008, PMP—the largest employer in Vaughan—filed for bankruptcy protection and closed down its 11 facilities, leaving more than 2,400 non-unionized auto-parts workers jobless with \$30 million in severance and termination pay still

quate medical care as well as compensation.

Governments in producing countries should outlaw the process or enforce existing bans and those in consuming countries should ban the import of sandblasted jeans. And, the ILO and the WTO should be called upon to intervene to help impose a global ban.

**Stronger Together/IMF-ICEM-ITGLWF/CALM**

## **A New Chapter Begins – The NDP is the Official Opposition!**

"It's taken 144 years, but for the first time since Confederation, working Canadians will have the voice of the official opposition in the House of Commons," said IAMAW Canadian General Vice President Dave Ritchie.

Jack Layton and his New Democratic Party made Canadian history when they elected 102 members of Parliament in the May 2, 2011 federal election. When the last Parliament dissolved, the NDP had 36 seats.

As predicted, the Orange wave that gained momentum following the televised leadership debates, swept through Quebec where the NDP picked up 58 seats including that of Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe. At the outset of the election, the party had a single seat in Montréal, held by NDP finance critic Tom Mulcair.

"We heard the Quebecers message of change and hope," said NDP leader Jack Layton. "They expressed it very clearly so that we won't be able to forget it." Layton reiterated his message that he would try to make parliament work "I will propose constructive solutions focused on helping all Canadians," he said.

## **Sandblasting: The human cost of fashion**

Eighty years ago, the World Health Organization warned of the danger of sandblasting denim. In the 1960s, EU member states regulated or banned it. In 2009, it was outlawed in Turkey.

Yet sandblasting remains the method of choice for giving jeans a trendy faded look.

The process of sandblasting releases silica dust, which, when inhaled, causes infection and scarring in the lungs. Continued exposure can cause silicosis, an incurable disease that worsens over time, even after exposure stops.

As a result of long working hours in cramped unventilated areas with little or no protection, workers in the denim industry contract silicosis much more quickly than workers in other sectors, often after four or five years of exposure, and in some cases after as little as 12 months.

In Turkey, the world's third largest exporter of jeans and the only country so far where the effects of sandblasting have come under scrutiny, 550 former sandblasting workers have been diagnosed with silicosis since 2005 and 46 have died of the disease.

In April 2009, following a campaign led by workers, their unions, doctors and civil organizations, sandblasting was banned in Turkey. Following the ban, however, sandblasting was relocated to other countries.

The International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation is calling for unions to investigate the use of sandblasting. Where it exists, unions should campaign to eliminate the practice and exert pressure to ensure that past and present workers are tested and that those affected receive ade-

owing.

The workers staged a 16-day, 24-hour picket outside the main plant to block the machinery from leaving.

Their spontaneous mass action received media attention and public support. With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and CAW as sponsor, the PMP Workers Action Centre opened its doors on September 1, 2008.

The centre closed March 31, but the PMP Learning Centre, a partnership with Seneca College and the Toronto District School Board, will stay open until June this year.

### **CAW/CALM**

## **Corporation must honour pension obligations**

The Court of Appeal for Ontario has ruled that aluminium manufacturer Indalex Limited did not fulfill its duties to workers when it filed for protection from creditors in 2009.

The ruling, which benefits USW members who worked at a former Indalex operation in Quebec, sets a precedent for providing greater benefits to pension plan members in cases of insolvency.

In many past cases, workers and pensioners have suffered drastic reductions in their pensions, as corporate assets were distributed first to creditors ranked ahead of pension plans.

"This is a remarkable victory for these workers and pensioners," said Ken Neumann, the United Steelworkers' national director.

"We hope this ruling sets a precedent to help protect the pensions of many other Canadians and convince our federal gov-

ernment to finally pass laws to enhance the rights of pension plan members in bankruptcy cases," Neumann said.

Toronto-based Indalex Limited, an aluminum extrusions manufacturer, wound up its worker pension plan on December 31, 2006. At that time, the plan was underfunded.

In 2009, Indalex filed for bankruptcy protection and obtained interim financing to continue operations while it sought to sell its assets. Indalex sold substantially all of its assets in a court-approved sale on July 20, 2009.

At the hearing that approved the sale, the United Steelworkers argued the company should use proceeds of the sale to satisfy pension plan deficiencies. The judge rejected those arguments, prompting the appeal by the USW and other pension plan members.

In a unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeal upheld the USW's appeal.

Madam Justice Eileen Gillese said in her decision, "Indalex knew that the plans were under-funded and that unless more funds were put into the plans, pensions would have to be reduced."

"The decisions that Indalex was unilaterally making had the potential to affect the plans' beneficiaries' rights, at a time when they were particularly vulnerable."

## USW/CALM

### Workers at Northstar Aerospace

Workers at Northstar Aerospace had voted 72.2 per cent in favour of a strike mandate, strike deadline Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> 12:01 am.

This is the first strike vote and the first contract negotiations for the workers, who joined CAW Local 444 in October.

"There's no question there's nervousness here," said Local 444 president Rick Laporte.

"Absolutely there's nervousness and rightly so. I'd be nervous in their shoes as well. But the goal here is to get it done without a strike."

Laporte said the union has been negotiating with the company for about five months but accused them of "foot-dragging."

He said the issues include pay, with employees hoping for a raise. They make anywhere from \$18 to \$29 per hour now.

Workplace fairness and rules are also issues, he said.

"There's no fairness in place. There's four, five different workers doing the same work and getting paid four, five different wages."

The plant, on East Pike Creek Road, builds aircraft gears and transmission parts. Its biggest customer is aircraft engine maker Rolls-Royce.

## LabourStart

### 2011 Durham Region Labour Council Joe Hand 'Day of Mourning' Poster Winners

Emily Nicholishen, Abrianna Melino, Ruben Cisneros, and teacher, LEEANNE Forbes-Mudge from Sinclair Secondary. Abrianna's hand drawn poster shown here.

