Our website: www.iamaw905.ca



### ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETING

Monday, December  $8^{th}$ , 4:15 PM At the Ajax Legion Hall  $_{*}$  111 Hunt St. Ajax, ON

### **LOCAL 905 EXECUTIVE**

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

## Corporations Guilty of Killing Workers Rebated Millions of Dollars by WSIB

A new report released by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) reveals that Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is rebating millions of dollars each year to companies found guilty of offences that have resulted in workers being killed in work-related accidents.

"The WSIB is re-victimizing workers and their families by handing offending corporations millions of dollars in premium rebates," said Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. "These CEOs shouldn't be receiving rebates – they should be going to jail."

The shocking pattern of WSIB payments is documented in an OFL report, Rewarding Offenders: Report on How Ontario's Workplace Safety System Rewards Employers Despite Workplace Deaths and Injuries, written by labour lawyer Joel Schwartz.

Over the three year period between 2011 and 2013, 135 employers who had been convicted of offences under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) were granted rebates on their premiums by the WSIB. Astonishingly, 78 of the 135 (almost 58%) received nearly \$15 million in rebates in the very same year they had committed their offences. **OFL** 

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## CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE IN 905

### **IAM Expands in Hospitality Sector**

Employees of the Days Inn in the Steel City voted overwhelmingly in favour of joining the IAM.

'From the beginning these workers knew that getting a union could help them in their workplace," said IAM Grand Lodge Special Representative Scott Jackson. "I can't say enough about the great work of IAM District Lodge 78 organizers Rob North and Roy Bhansingh in keeping these employees together during a stressful period of time."

The 11 new members of IAM Local Lodge 1295 perform housekeeping and maintenance duties at the 60 room facility in downtown Hamilton. This is the second Days Inn organized by the IAM; the other is located in London. The IAM also represents hospitality workers at hotels in Oakville, Ottawa, Mississauga, Brampton, Sarnia and Toronto.

#### IAM

# Quebec students show signs of renewed movement

Students in Quebec are again preparing for a strike mobilization, this time against the Quebec Liberal government's budget of austerity and cuts to social programs and services. A number of college and universities will conduct a one day walkout on October 31, a provincial day of a mobilization against the cuts. Other colleges are mobilizing toward a mass strike in the spring-time, working much more closely with labour unions than before.

#### **CALM**

## DURING NOVEMBER

- 28 Years Eduardo Briones 28 Years Allan Gallimore
- 27 Years Sharon Delahaye-Holmes
- 22 Years Frank Zeiler
- 20 Years Terry Jobe

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- 20 Years James Strickland
- 20 Years Simon Tong
- 20 Years Jesse Wilson
- 19 Years Yue-jin Mah
- 19 Years Murray Rehill
- 16 Years Ian Knightbridge
- 16 Years Robert Marlowe
- 16 Years Eric Pinto
- 15 Years Todd DuMoulin
- 15 Years Jim Pearson
- 15 Years Gordon Pearson
- 14 Years John Rideout
- 14 Years Neal Kent
- 14 Years Kevin Seaborne
- 10 Years Chad Gilmour

- 10 Years Mirko Zoric
- 9 Years Michael Bond
- 9 Years Robert Johnston

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- 9 Years Ian Kimball
- 9 Years Gerard Koene
- 9 Years Donald Lockhart
- 3 Years Kelly Comstock



### **Get Well Soon**

**Eduardo Briones** 

**Shelley Chapman** 

**Randy Crawford** 

Angela D'angelo

**Ali Elassal** 

**Pauline Reilly** 

**Douglas Teske** 

**Bob Todd** 

### **CORRECTION**

# YEARS OF SERVICE IN 905 DURING OCTOBER

3 YEARS Edgar Laundry

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2014

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### STRIKE AVERTED AT LAKEHEAD MOTORS

Management's last minute removal of a monetary cap on short-term benefits and bargaining concessions for new hires, narrowly avoided strike action, by members of IAM Local Lodge 1120 at Lakehead Motors.

"Our members were adamant about these issues," explained IAM Local Lodge 1120 Directing Business Representative Pete Topetto. "We had the picket signs ready to go and our members were in a volatile mood."

With contentious issues out of the way, the membership agreed to let the two tier starting wage for Schedule A technicians stand. New technicians will receive 85 per cent of the wage awarded to Schedule 'A' Journeymen Technicians in the first year, 90 per cent in the second year and 100 per cent in the third year.

The three-year agreement provides across the board wage increases of 3 per cent in the first year and 2.5 per cent in the second and third year respectively. General labourers will also receive an additional 75 cent/hour increase in the first year. All members also receive IAM pension plan increases of 3 per cent in the first year and 2.5 per cent in the second and third year as well.

Other agreement highlights include:

• \$100 travel allowance for training• Non-taxable tool replacement allowance• Non-taxable safety footwear allowance• Improved contract language

The 33 members consist of mechanics, body men, painters, parts personnel, shippers and receivers and general labourers at the Chrysler – Dodge – Jeep – Fiat – Mercedes dealership. The IAM represents workers at four other auto dealerships in Thunder Bay and one in Nipigon. **IAM** 

### **Machinists Ratify New Deal with Hobart**

Hobart Food Equipment Group Canada, Service Department Hobart Food Equipment Group Canada, Service Department and Warehouse personnel, members of IAM Local Lodge 235, have ratified a new collective agreement.

The three-year agreement provides wage increases of 1.75 per cent in each of the first two years and 2 per cent in the third year. Other agreement highlights include:

Pension increases of .25 per cent in the first and second year respectively
 Increase safety boot allowance
 Increased prescription safety glasses allowance
 Contract language improvements
 Increased Life Insurance coverage

The 14 members provide warehouse and maintenance service for Hobart Food Equipment such as meat slicers, meat choppers, meat grinders, meat saws, peelers, meat tenderizers, food cutters, food processors, refrigeration units, blast chillers, prep tables, counter-top griddles, ovens, broilers, fryers, rotisseries and ranges.

IAM

# Minimum wage increase has no impact on employment

A CCPA study has debunked the right-wing myth that raising minimum wage will lead to greater unemployment or less jobs. In fact, there's no connection. Evidence shows that employment levels are actually influenced by other economic factors. Creating more purchasing power is the best way to lead to job creation.

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# Wake-up call for Ontario's private surgery clinics health policy

By forging ahead with cutting surgeries out of public hospitals and outsourcing them to private clinics, Ontario's provincial government is "ignoring" mounting evidence that private surgery and procedures are posing safety risks and harming patients in Britain, says Michael Hurley the president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU).

According to the Guardian newspaper this week, surgeries have been suspended at a private clinic in Devon while an investigation is underway involving 19 patients, several of whom suffered complications. This follows reports just weeks ago that dozens of patients at another private clinic were left damaged with impaired vision, pain and discomfort and one 84-year old man claiming he has lost his sight completely. The contract with that provider was terminated four days after 60 patients reported complications following surgery.

For the last decade Britain has experimented with increasing use of private (often for-profit) companies to perform surgeries such as cataract and hips and knees and endoscopy procedures, once done at public hospitals.

Prior to this June's election Ontario's Liberal health minister (who has since been moved to another ministry) indicated her government would be moving forward to cut surgeries and procedures from hospitals here, in order to implement a similar outsourcing as in Britain.

"The patient outcome horror stories coming out of these private procedures clinics are chronicled weekly by British media," says Hurley. "What's clear is that risks to patients have increased and there are significant patient injury and other post-surgery complications. More British patients being harmed at private surgery clinics should be a wake-up call for

### PRENTICE PLAN TO RE-OPEN TFW

Internal government documents paint a clear picture of the negative consequences for working Albertans if Premier Jim Prentice is successful in convincing the federal government to re-open the TFW floodgates.

The documents, obtained by the Alberta Federation of Labour through federal access to information requests, show thousands of Alberta-based businesses have been disproportionately relying on Temporary Foreign Workers — many with workforces that are more than 50 per cent TFWs. They also show many Alberta businesses have been granted work permits that allow them to pay TFWs far below the rate offered to Canadians.

The documents show that in 2013 there were 2,578 businesses nationwide whose workforces were more than 30 per cent TFWs – the majority of which were in Alberta. In the same year, 1,123 businesses had workforces that were more than 50 per cent TFWs. Again, the majority of these were in Alberta.

McGowan says the list also raises serious concerns about the role being played by foreign state-owned corporations in the oil sands. More than half of the workers employed in Alberta by companies like Sinopec (a state-owned oil corporation from China) and Samjin (a subsidiary of Korea's national oil company) are TFWs.

In addition to the list of businesses that use TFWs to fill more than 30 and 50 per cent of their jobs, the AFL also released documents showing that many construction companies in Alberta have been using TFWs to suppress the wages of tradespeople.

#### **Alberta Federation of Labour**

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### WoodGreen staff strike ended

After almost 20 days off the jobsince October 9, staff at WoodGreen Community Services returned to work ending the first strike in the organization's history.

WoodGreen CEO Brian Smith confirmed that 500 unionized workers were back running children's programs, employment centres and settlement counselling across the city of Toronto.

"We fortunately reached an agreement of a settlement, and so we were very pleased that all our staff are returned to work now and that we can get back to the business of serving our clients," Smith said.

Navjeet Sidhu, a spokesperson for Workers United Canada, said that union members and WoodGreen management came back to the bargaining table with a mediator. Both parties agreed to a total raise of 4.5 per cent over the next three years.

Smith had told the Star during an earlier interview the strike left 350 school-aged children without programs before and after school. Other disrupted services included the closure of two out of three employment centres, reduced Englishlanguage classes and settlement counselling.

Sidhu said union members were looking for a wage increase to better reflect the cost of living increases. Motions to strike surfaced after members of WoodGreen's executive appeared on Ontario's Sunshine List, a list of public sector workers with salaries of \$100,000 or more. At the same time, unionized worker wages were not increasing fairly, according to a memo issued by the union on Sept. 16.

#### **The Toronto Star**

Ontario's health minister to not inflict this model on unsuspecting Ontarians."

British doctors have routinely warned against outsourcing even "routine" surgeries, citing both increased risks to patients and higher costs for the public health system.

Hurley is calling on Ontario's new health minister Eric Hoskins to closely review the evidence coming out of Britain against outsourcing surgeries to private clinics and not emulate a failing experiment here.

### **CUPE**

# Food insecurity growing because of low -income, unjust agricultural system

Four million people in Canada are experiencing some kind of food insecurity. A big factor is low income and unemployment, but insecurity is being experienced increasingly by students and people with jobs. Canada's food and agricultural system is also a huge factor. Farm are become larger and fewer, with big agribusiness being supported with massive subsidies by the federal government to push out small farmers and orient mono=crop production for export rather than biodiversity and better food distribution throughout Canada.

Corporations are also monopolizing seed supply, with 75 percent of seeds being controlled by just 10 companies, according to Food Secure Canada, meaning farmers and gardeners have to buy seeds every year instead of saving them. Food Secure Canada is demeaning policies to ensure food is eaten as close to possible where it is produced, that support food providers shifting to ecological production, and policies to eliminate poverty so Canadians can afford healthy food.

#### **CALM**

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# Proponents of pipeline - deliberately misleading the public and the media

TransCanada Pipelines officially filed an application with the National Energy Board (NEB) to build the much-discussed Energy East pipeline from Alberta to New Brunswick. In response, Gil McGowan, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour, released the following statement:

"If, as many of its proponents are saying today, the Energy East pipeline would really create a significant number of long-term refining jobs in New Brunswick and reduce the reliance of eastern Canada on foreign oil, we would enthusiastically support the project. But, the truth is, this pipeline will do nothing of the sort. A thorough analysis of the TransCanada application shows that Energy East won't bring Alberta oil to eastern refineries – instead it will channel that oil right past Canadian refineries on the way to foreign markets.

The closest that Energy East will get to a Canadian refinery is the Irving Refinery in New Brunswick, but even there, oil transported on the pipeline will not go to the refinery itself; instead it will be delivered to a new oil export terminal being built by the Irvings next to the refinery. Even if Irving Oil wanted to take a portion of the oil out of the pipeline before loading it on ships for export, they couldn't because the New Brunswick refinery is a 'cracking refinery', as opposed to a 'coking refinery.' That means that it couldn't use the diluted bitumen coming down the pipeline as feedstock without investing literally billions of dollars in upgrades. To date, no such upgrades have been announced, so it's clear that the vast majority of bitumen coming down the pipe will be destined for foreign, not domestic markets.

We raise these points in an effort to encourage the public and

media to look more closely at the claims being made by proponents of the pipeline, including the Premiers of Alberta and New Brunswick. Despite all the rhetoric and the spin, it's clear that Energy East is not a 'nation building' project. Instead, it is yet another in a long line of projects aimed to perpetuating the 'rip-it-and-ship-it' approach that has characterized Canada's resource sector for too long. To put it another way, Energy East will only solidify our role as "hewers of wood, drawers of water...and diggers of bitumen." When will our leaders start championing projects that actually keep good refining jobs in Canada, instead of exporting them to countries like the United States and China?"

#### Alberta Federation of Labour

# Minimum wage increase has no impact on employment

A CCPA study has debunked the right-wing myth that raising minimum wage will lead to greater unemployment or less jobs. In fact, there's no connection. Evidence shows that employment levels are actually influenced by other economic factors. Creating more purchasing power is the best way to lead to job creation, the report's authors argue. They call on policymakers to boost the minimum wage, eventually toward a living wage.

#### **CALM**