Our website: www.iamaw905.ca



### ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETING

Monday, April 13th, 4:15 PM At the Ajax Legion Hall \* 111 Hunt St. Ajax, ON

### **LOCAL 905 EXECUTIVE**

President Dave Thompson

Vice President Dan Robertson

Secretary Steve Pennington

Financial Secretary Kris Socha

Sentinel Rob Blair

Trustees Daryl Rowe

Leonard Yeung Rasheed Houssain

Committeeman Shane Kingston

Chief Stewards Dan Robertson

Kent Danforth
Janice McKenzie

Jean Violette

Stewards Gary Cooper

Stephen Kilby Jeff Tainsh Ian Kimble

Michael White

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The "905"

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THE "905"

APRIL 2015

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

Peter Serjeant, a 34 year L.L.905 member, shown here receiving a retirement cheque from Recording Secretary Steve Pennington.

WWW.

# **Happy Retirement!**



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## **Machinists File With NLRB to Hold Union** Election at Boeing's S.C. Plant Up to 2,400 workers would vote on unionization

APRIL 2015



Boeings biggest union filed with the National Labor Relations Board for a vote on unionizing 2,400 workers at Boeing's South Carolina plant, a move that could stoke new tension in the aerospace company's long-standing battle with organized labor.

The NLRB would need to review the filing by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to determine whether the requirements for a unionization vote have been met. A spokesman for the IAM said the agency would set a date for any election after that review.

The vote plan is the latest round in years of battling over the plant in North Charleston, S.C., Boeing's first nonunion plant for commercial jet assembly, which the company selected nearly six years ago after a few strikes by workers at its main manufacturing base in Washington .

The IAM said the central concerns of the staff at the South Carolina plant, which makes and assembles major parts of Boeing's long-range 787 Dreamliner, include mandatory overtime, fair wages and "lack of respect on the shop floor." The site has struggled to achieve a regular production tempo and Boeing has increased overtime to get caught up.

## **CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE IN 905 DURING APRIL**

36 Years Hateram (Ken) Sani- 3 Years Steven McGrath chanran

30 Years Bradley Godfrey

28 Years Michael Bredin

27 Years Merle Zettler

26 Years Mark Anderson

25 Years Pat Craftchick

20 Years Angela D'Angelo

20 Years Dave Kamath

20 Years Rick Loveless

20 Years Allen Murdoch

20 Years Kevin Ross

20 Years Dave Thompson

20 Years Paul Turnbull

20 Years Leonard Yeung

19 Years Don Beadle

15 Years Owen Brown

14 Years Wilfredo Deguzman

14 Years Jamie Novak

12 Years Marilyn Nelson

11 Years John Cheap

10 Years Mark Babcock

8 Years Shane Cressy

8 Years Grea Holbrook

8 Years Ken Willman

7 Years Alan Brown

7 Years George Cassar

7 Years Maksim Svetlakov

- 3 Years Matt Cracknell
- 1 Year Mark Visser
- 1 Year Kelly Barlow
- 1 Year Cynthia Smith



**Get Well Soon** 

**Eduardo Briones** 

**Shelley Chapman** 

**Randy Crawford** 

Angela D'angelo

Ali Elassal

Jamie Farr

**Kevin Graham** 

**Pauline Reilly** 

**Dave Shaw** 

**Douglas Teske** 

**Alex Marshall** 

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Boss, to four of his employees: "I'm really sorry, but I'm going to have to let one of you go."

Black employee: "I'm a protected minority."

Female employee: "And I'm a woman."

Oldest employee: "Fire me, buster, and I'll hit you with an age discrimination suit so fast it'll make your head spin."

They all turn to look at the helpless young, white, male employee, who thinks a moment, then responds: "I think I might be gay..."

### - jokes2go.com

Boeing said the vote is a decision for employees on whether to "turn over their rights to the IAM or keep a direct relationship with the company

Boeing, has waged a vocal campaign to dissuade its employees from supporting a vote, enlisting local leaders to speak out against the unionization effort. South Carolina has the secondlowest rates of unionization in the U.S., according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with 2.2% of workers belonging to organized labor.

It is unclear how long the NLRB's decision will take. The agency will first review the IAM's filing and will hold a hearing March 26 to determine whether an election is warranted, said a Boeing spokeswoman. The company has the option for a consent order with the IAM to hold the vote, but the company opposes any agreement that would clear the way for an election.

The South Carolina plant has given Boeing important leverage in dealing with its unions, and the company has steadily expanded the East Coast operation. It first acquired two struggling suppliers at the South Carolina site in 2008 and 2009, and soon after selected it for what is now a sprawling assembly facility that built about 5% of Boeing's commercial jetliners last year. That share is expected to climb in the years to come.

The IAM previously represented workers in the two suppliers' plants, but the workforce in 2009 voted to decertify the union at the site a month before Boeing's selection of it for 787 assembly.

.Boeing and the IAM at the end of 2011 negotiated a new contract that would keep production of single-aisle jets in unionized facilities in Washington state. The union withdrew its complaint with the NLRB shortly after.

Early last year, Boeing and the IAM in Washington state narrowly agreed on a revised contract that would guarantee its 777X jetliner and its carbon-composite wings would be assembled in unionized facilities. In exchange, the company secured health-care and retirement-benefit concessions from the workforce starting in 2016.

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# Safety and social responsibility must be top priority for Ontario beer retailing system



As speculation continues about possible changes to Ontario's beer retailing system, what mustn't be forgotten is that The Beer Store provides Ontario consumers, parents and communities the highest standard of social responsibility and safety. We're talking about the safety of the public, drivers, and also about the safety of workers who are well trained in challenging customers who are underage or under the influence of alcohol.

In 2014 alone, Beer Store employees challenged over 3 million customers for I.D., and refused to sell product to more than 60,000 for being underage or intoxicated. While the Ontario government continues to ponder other retail channels for beer and spirits, "we are concerned about what that might mean for the safety of cashiers and other staff in grocery stores and other outlets," said the UFCW Canada leader

The Beer Store's proven social responsibility efforts also extend to its bottle return system that recycles over 400,000 tonnes of beer and alcohol bottles, and saves Ontario municipalities \$40 million annually in waste diversion costs. Changes to the beer retailing system could eventually mean that municipalities or other retailers would have to take on the cost of that recycling themselves.

safety concerns have been brought to the government before, when groups like the Conservatives and the Retail Council have called to dismantle the current systems.

# Air Canada, Unifor contract talks break off



Contract talks have broken off between Air Canada and Unifor, the union that represents ticket agents, customer service representative and sales agents.

The company and the union have been in negotiations since January and no strike vote has been taken.

Unifor wants Air Canada to get involved in a dispute the union is having with Greater Toronto Airport Authority, which is outsourcing work involving assistance to passengers who require wheelchair or other special help. Such a move would mean a pay cut of 50 per cent for about 130 workers.

"The disregard for workers at Air Canada in Toronto is just the beginning or a larger issue of contract flipping that could affect Air Canada members in all locations," Cheryl Robinson, president of Unifor local 2002 said in a statement.

Leslie Dias, Unifor's national representative for the airline industry, said negotiations have not progressed far enough for the union to hold a strike vote yet. - The Globe and Mail

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### **SPRING FORWARD FOR CHILD CARE**

Everyone benefits when parents can go to work knowing that their children are safe and well cared for. Parents benefit because they can take on better jobs and balance work and family responsibilitys. Kids benefit because they have a safe place to learn, grow and play

The Labour movement is calling for a national child care system so all parents can count on quality child care when they return to work.

#### **HELP US GET THERE!!**

Together with child care advocates canadas labour movement will be part of a **week of action from MAY 10 to 17** a week when we will celebrate child care as public good and call for a system that will provide all families with high quality care at a fee every family can afford!

#### JOIN US!

# LETS MAKE THIS THE LAST INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY WITHOUT CHILD CARE FOR ALL WORKING FAMILIES!

Visit www.canadianlabour.ca/issues/child-care



UFCW Canada represents Beer Store workers, as well as thousands of members in the Ontario grocery sector. "We continue to be very concerned about the impact of proposed changes. We await to hear from Premier Wynne and look forward to ensuring that safety and social responsibility remain fundamental to alcohol sales in Ontario."

#### -UFCW

-

## **UFCW** organizes medical marijuana Workers

Workers at Minnesota Medical Solutions are among the newest members of the UFCW International Union, having ratified their first contract. Minnesota Medical Solutions provides medicinal marijuana for patients in the state of Minnesota.

Having passed laws to legalize the use of medicinal marijuana last year, Minnesota's initial eight medical marijuana dispensaries are scheduled to start opening on July 1st, the first day medical cannabis can be dispensed in the U.S. state. UFCW will represent workers at four of those dispensaries. Workers will be represented by UFCW Local 1189 across the production chain.

"It'll be the people who are involved in the basic horticulture, the harvesting of the product, the extraction and then the distribution and the retail end, " said UFCW Local 1189 Organizer Bernie Hesse.

UFCW has organized cannabis workers in other states in the U.S., including California, Colorado, and Washington. **-UFCW** 

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## Latest Bangladesh tragedy renews call for independent safety inspections



At least five workers were killed, and another 100 were trapped after a concrete factory collapsed in Bangladesh. Officials at the site in Mongla, say about 150 workers were inside the building when it collapsed. This latest tragedy follows the collapse of a Bangladesh garment factory in April 2013, when more than 1,100 workers were killed when a building they worked in at Rana Plaza collapsed.

Following the Rana Plaza tragedy, many retailers, including Loblaw Companies, committed to signing the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety, which uses independent, third-party inspectors in order to improve conditions for workers in the developing nation. More than 1,000 factories have been inspected under The Accord since it was formed. By signing onto the Accord, retailers commit to putting people before profits at their supplier factories. Other companies, including Wal-Mart and Target have refused to sign.

"This latest tragedy reminds us that we need to support every effort to ensure safe working conditions and building standards, in Bangladesh and globally," says UFCW Canada National President "Independent building inspections are key. Governments, including Bangladesh, must also recognize the rights of workers and their unions to verify the safety protocols, to ensure that worker safety is the number one priority."

#### -UFCW

# Industry self-monitoring not the answer to protect farm workers suppling Walmart



Mexico has called out Walmart for the deplorable labour conditions at Mexican farms it uses to supply its produce. Walmart is North America's largest importer of Mexican fruits and vegetables. Recently, reports surfaced that documented mistreatment of workers at the farms that supply Wal-mart, including shoddy dormitory facilities, and overcharging workers for food and basic necessities at on-site labour camp stores.

The announcement comes after a new directive from a Mexico industry agency overseeing the agriculture sector. In the wake of the charges, Walmart has now announced plans to beef up its inspection system of its suppliers. Walmart maintains that for years it has had a team of its own inspectors overseeing its suppliers and visiting farms. Walmart has pledged to expand its system, but that does not include contracting third-party, independent inspectors. Their current system in Mexico is similar to the self-regulated inspection system Walmart used with its suppliers prior to the Rana plaza disaster in Bangladesh. Walmart continues to refuse signing the Bangladesh Accord which would oblige them to use independent, third-part inspectors of their Bangladesh suppliers.

Agriculture operations, including Walmart's contractors, should be subject to third-party monitoring systems that utilize surprise or multiple inspections annually, interviewing workers to get a clearer, unbiased picture of labour conditions, UFCW Canada has issued numerous recommendations to the federal and provincial governments in our Annual Report on the Status of Migrant Farm Workers in Canada, and these recommendations would also work in Mexico." - UFCW