

Labour Council Report for CAW Local 229

September 27, 02

Changes to the Thunder Bay & District Labour Council By-laws were brought forward by the Constitution committee and will be voted on at the October meeting. One of the amendments would have people who sit on committee's for the labour council have the approval of their local union, who must be affiliated with labour council. This follows a push from an SEIU representative on the Labour Council executive to have Brother Jack Drewes removed from the Airport Board. A letter asking for his resignation was approved. Elections for this position will occur at the October meeting. I didn't ask what would happen if brother Drewes didn't submit his resignation. It appears there are still some hard feelings from the SEIU/CAW dispute, and Brother Drewes is a scapegoat, as he is now a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, through an SEIU. (IUOE does not affiliate with labour council)

The United Way Board and the New Directions Board are looking for representatives from Labour Council. No volunteers stepped forward. If you may be interested please contact the local office. You do not have to be a delegate to labour council to sit on a committee for them.

The trade unions reported that they will be back to city council on November 25, 02 to regarding the contract of the water sewage treatment plant that was awarded to an employer with a contract with CLAC, (an alternative trade union who work for much less money and bring all their own workers into communities, not hiring any local labour and therefore not contributing to the local economy). Council will consider a motion to have 80% local labour in any further contracts from the city.

I reported on our Long Term Care campaign and paramedic campaign. Save medicare lawn signs were distributed as well as signs for the public meeting on October 2, 02.

Our brothers and sisters at CAW Local 1075 reported they have successfully negotiated and ratified a collective agreement with Bombardier.

UFCW reported that they were optimistic that the vote at Safeway to decertify would never be counted, but even if it were they were confident that the UFCW would win. They reported that UFCW has been extremely supportive to the members covering everything needed from child care to mortgages to retraining costs; something which has no coverage in the press. The recent vote is lead by management and semi-management people who have turned on the union.

Submitted in solidarity, Katha Fortier

