



Executive  
Committee  
Local 229

**DIGNITY IS A MINIMUM STANDARD; Local 229  
Local 229 Exceeds 6000 Signed Postcards! *Story on page 2***



President  
Andy Savela

Vice President  
Katha Fortier

Recording  
Secretary  
Marg Arnone

Financial  
Secretary  
Josie Vickruck

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Amy Rubino

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Outlying Regions  
WEST  
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Director of  
Women's Issues  
Cherie McEvoy

CAW Council  
Marg Arnone  
Katha Fortier  
Andy Savela  
Amy Rubino  
Jason Cummings

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[www.caw229.com](http://www.caw229.com)

CAW CANADA LOCAL 229  
101 N. Syndicate Ave. Suite 512  
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3V4  
(807) 474-4229 ext. 5

EMAIL US AT:

[caw229@tbaytel.net](mailto:caw229@tbaytel.net)

## **Dignity is a Minimum Standard; The Campaign Continues!**

Volunteers from various CAW worksites have successfully collected in excess of 6,000 signed postcards for the dignity campaign. Local 229 President Andy Savela says that through the hard work and dedication of the membership they have managed to far surpass his expectations. "I believed if we managed to reach 5,000 it would be amazing." Savela continued, "Cards are still coming in and being accepted, but we will be shipping the first load off to the National Office this week to be ready for delivery to the new Minister of Health, George Smitherman."

In addition, members of CAW Local 1075 at the Bombardier Plant have collected over 400 postcards. Support from non-health care sectors of the CAW has been tremendous. Savela says, "Being part of a large union with so many activists is a sure advantage when we are running a campaign."

## **Local 229 Election Report**

The Local 229 Election Committee is officially in place for the next three years. While the Local would accept up to ten members, only five nominations were received. The Election Committee will be George Saarinen, Kathleen Joffers, Pat Hovi, Debby Agnew, and Marsha Hermanson. The small committee will mean that they will have a larger workload, but they are an experienced group, and should be able to complete the busy 2004 election schedule. Congratulations to everyone who put their name forward.

## **Web Site Update**

The Local 229 Web site gallery continues to be updated with photos of members throughout the district, thanks to the purchase of a digital camera for the Local. Please stop by and check them out at [www.caw229.com](http://www.caw229.com) We appreciate any feedback on the site.

## **NDP MP Pat Martin Meets with CAW**

Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin met Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> with members of CAW Local 229 to discuss long term care concerns. A press conference was held and resulted in a Chronicle-Journal article, "Seniors in care get CAW support" in the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> paper.

A well attended social in support of the NDP was held at the CAW 1075 hall

## **Marks Work Wearhouse Deal for Local 229 Members!**

The Executive of Local 229 was approached this fall by Marks Work Wearhouse to extend an offer to our members for 10% off their purchases. Before the Local could endorse this, they needed to ask some questions on the policies of the employer to ensure that they were a worker friendly operation. The following is their response from Corporate Sales Representative, Mark Potvin.

"To try and answer your questions, first of all Mark's is a Canadian company started here in Calgary and is now owned by Canadian Tire. Secondly, all our in house brands are manufactured by Dickies in Montreal who are unionized. They do bring in overseas items on rare occasion in order to meet certain requests. Carhartt, also a large name within Mark's and #1 used by the IBEW is unionized and will on occasion do the same as Dickies. With respect to this and all other items sold by Mark's, we have a strict policy regarding the fair wages and working conditions of those workers outside of Canada and the US. In addition, Mark's has continually audited 1 out of 6 of the factories from which items are acquired to ensure this quality of condition and fair wages."

Purchasing clothing from companies who have fair wage and working conditions policies can sometimes be as difficult as finding union made items. The Executive Board, along with the general membership decided that joining this program for our members would be beneficial to both parties, and in addition, an opportunity to raise awareness sweatshops. More information is available on line at:

[www.afcio.org/shop](http://www.afcio.org/shop)

[www.clc-ctc.ca](http://www.clc-ctc.ca)

[www.nosweatshop.com](http://www.nosweatshop.com)

[www.justiceclothing.com](http://www.justiceclothing.com).

10% savings coupons are available at the local office or through your stewards or unit chair. Shopping union does matter.

## **Local 229 Profile; Recording Secretary Marg Arnone**

Marg Arnone is probably one of the most familiar faces around our Local. Employed as an RPN at Dawson Court for 27 years, she was always a union activist, becoming Chief Steward in our previous union in 1978, a position she held for 12 years. Marg remembers why she got involved with the union. "In 1978 I wanted more education for our members, I wanted to change my union; to bring more democracy, and to dispense with the 'old boys club' mentality."

Her union activities only expanded after her early involvement. She held several executive board positions, including President, Financial Secretary, and Vice-President. Active on several committees within the local, she also represented her members at a provincial and national level through the union structure and in the broader labour movement.

Currently Marg still doesn't shy away from involvement. She is the Local 229 Recording Secretary and sits on many committee's including Constitution and Bylaws, Communications, and Health Care. An elected CAW Council Delegate, Marg continues to represent our Local on a National level. If that isn't quite enough, she is involved with the broader issues; sitting on the Executive of the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council and the Board of Directors for the United Way.

Marg was born in Kirkland Lake and grew up in Sioux Lookout, where she worked in the hospital. She also worked in hospitals in Winnipeg and Thompson Manitoba.

Despite Marg's long and busy history with our union, she still found time to raise a family. A single mother, Marg raised two children, and now enjoys the benefits of three grandchildren. Marg is thrilled with the direction the Local Union has taken. "I think the Local is fulfilling all my hopes and dreams." She continues, "We are not only getting more members involved, but are putting the pressure on the government to improve a lot of the things that are important to all members like better health care and fighting for minimum standards for our Seniors in Long Term Care."

And Marg isn't stopping now. She plans to stay involved and active in the local. While she

now has some physical limitations due to her many years of nursing home work, she still intends to be active. Marg puts a lot of volunteer time in the local office on campaigns and issues. In the Dignity Campaign, Marg spent hours on the phone calling for support from our members, other unions, and the press.

When asked about involving members in the union, Marg feels that members need to know this is their union. "Its real easy to sit back and criticize and to do nothing to change things." She continues, "If a person wants to make something better they have to stop procrastinating and get their feet wet, even if it's just a little at first. It has taken me years to realize my dreams for our union- I started 27 years ago – but at least I started!" She says its not too late for anyone!

### **New Unit Training**

Twenty Local 229 workplace unit chairs and stewards attended a two day new unit training session was held in Thunder Bay at the Prince Arthur Hotel on November 27 and 28. Participants came from our two new units; Harbour View Child Care Centre, and Superior North Emergency Medical Services, and were joined by many new stewards from throughout our local. Local 229 Education Committee Chair and CAW Certified Instructor, Amy Rubino taught the classes which provide an overview of the local and national union, and an introduction to their role as stewards. Pictures of the session are available on the Local web site; [www.caw229.com](http://www.caw229.com) All the participants had a positive response to the course.

### **Local 229 First Paid Education Leave Graduate! (PEL)**

Sister Jocelyn Maguda, steward at the Balmoral Detox Centre of St. Joseph's Care Group spent the week of November 17<sup>th</sup> at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin receiving training on grievance handling and workplace leadership. Sister Maguda is the first, of what will be many, PEL graduates from our Local. PEL has now been bargained in almost every 229 agreement. Member activists from local units are encouraged to apply. Postings are sent to units, and applications can be sent in, once approved by the Local 229 Education Committee.

## **CAW Members in Open Custody Facilities for Youth Worry about Future**

Members of CAW Local 229 in Kenora who work in Open Custody Facilities are expressing concern over the impact changes made to the Young Offenders Act are having on the system. The Young Offenders Act, a Federal Law, has been replaced with the Youth Criminal Justice Act. But the new Act assumes that the Provinces will ensure that the alternatives to custody are in place. "In Ontario, that just simply has not been the case" says Local 229 President Andy Savela. He continues, "Community rehabilitative programs should be operating, and our members in these facilities should be trained to provide these necessary services, but that's not happening."

The new Act also makes it easier for a youth charged with a crime to walk away, providing they can find an adult to claim them. Brad Slobodian CAW Unit Chair at the Setterland Open Custody Facility believes this just results in less charges actually being laid. "Certain crimes are just swept under the carpet." He adds, "We know there is a drastic decrease in the number of youths in our programs, and we are wondering just how they are being dealt with, because the number of occurrences doesn't seem to be declining."

Savela, and Local 229 Vice-President Katha Fortier will travel to Kenora December 16<sup>th</sup> to meet with concerned CAW members and look at what actions the union can take.

## **CAW Women's Committee Continues Support for Women's Shelter**

During this holiday season, CAW members are encouraged to remember the women and children who, have been victims of violence, and have taken refuge in our local shelter.

Local 229 Executive Board Member for Women's Issues, Cheri McEvoy has asked the local for a financial contribution, and with the help of the Women's Committee, set up collection boxes at all three City Homes for the Aged. McEvoy says, "We certainly believe that these women and children could use all the support that we can give especially through the Christmas season."

Members are welcome to set up collections in their workplaces, or they can drop donations at the Local office.

**What would you do for \$2.50?**  
**Paramedics across Northwestern Ontario spend up to 56 hours a week on call (stand-by), over and above their regular job hours. Sounds simple enough, but look a little closer at the details.**

**WANTED; Paramedics** to work full or part time in small Northern communities. The position involves scheduled mandatory stand-by for many of your evenings and nights, and several of your weekends at the rate of \$2.50/hour. (Yes, we know minimum wage is more, but this is legal) Ambulance stand-by requires a response time as low as five (5) minutes to get to the base so you can forget about taking the kids sledding, walking the dog, having a glass of wine with dinner, going to the movies, dining out, grocery shopping, snowmobiling, going to the beach, changing your oil, cooking dinner, taking a long shower, inviting your friends over for cards, cross-country skiing, taking your mother to the doctor, ice-climbing, having a cold beer, shingling the roof, baking bread, curling, volunteering to work a bingo, taking your daughter to hockey, leading a scout group, chaperoning a school dance, attending a meeting, going on a date, painting the eaves, hiking, or, in fact, any other activity that may delay your arrival at the base. You may partake in any activity that can be stopped on a moments notice and takes place within the appropriate geographical range. Do not count on a restful nights sleep, and you may actually be confined to stay at the ambulance base if your home is not within the response time, especially if you work at one of the two extremely rural stations. If you have children who cannot be left unattended, your partner can also forget about engaging in most of the above activities, unless of course you are prepared to pay the cost of a sitter. The sitter will cost about twice the amount of your stand-by pay. If you are a single parent family, be prepared for significant child care costs. If you are called in during the evening or night, you are still expected to complete your subsequent day shift.

Paramedics across Northwestern Ontario are becoming an endangered species, leaving for southern communities and even western communities such as Emo and Atikokan, that do not have mandatory stand-by and allow for real time off, and **genuine 24 hour ambulance services, not just on call for nights and evenings.** If this situation concerns you please contact your local ambulance service provider (The City of Thunder Bay is the service provider for 14 ambulance bases in the district), your town council, Member of Provincial Parliament, or the Canadian Auto Workers Union Local 229.

**MPP Thunder Bay Superior North, Michael Gravelle**  
1.807.345.3647 or 1.888.516.5555

Email: [Michael.gravelle-MPP@ontla.ola.org](mailto:Michael.gravelle-MPP@ontla.ola.org)

**MPP Thunder Bay Atikokan, Bill Mauro**  
1.807.623.9237

Email: [bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

