



**Executive  
Committee  
Local 229**

**President**  
Andy Savela

**Vice President**  
Katha Fortier

**Recording  
Secretary**  
Marg Arnone

**Financial  
Secretary**  
Josie Vickruck

**Trustees**  
Jason Cummings  
Peter Sabourin  
Nancy Taylor

**Seargant-at-Arms**  
Amy Rubino

**Director for  
Outlying Regions  
WEST**  
Gary Muzyka

**Director of  
Women's Issues**  
Cherie McEvoy

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

**CAW Ontario Health Care Council Campaign**

**"DIGNITY IS A MINIMUM STANDARD"**

At CAW Council in April, the Local 229 resolution on long-term care passed unanimously, giving support from the National Union, and locals across the country for the CAW Health Care Council Long-Term Care Campaign. We have since learned that the National Union will contribute \$10,000 to our campaign, and we offer our thanks to the NEB.

The campaign focus will be on two issues. First, that minimum staffing standards be implemented for nursing and personal care of 3.5 hours per patient per day. Of 59 CAW facilities surveyed to date, we are averaging 2.17 hours per patient per day. That means that the average resident receives nursing and personal care for only 2 hours and 10 minutes per day, hours that include not only direct care, but indirect care such as charting, reporting, consulting, preparing medications, checking orders, and even supervising staff. The second focus will be on equalizing the playing field for entering long-term care by controlling escalating costs to ensure they don't surpass cost of living adjustments to income supports, and reducing the numbers of preferred accommodation (more expensive) beds, as those that can afford them have quicker access. The campaign will include:

Posters with our campaign slogan "dignity is a minimum standard" are on order. Plans are underway for billboards and other advertising, including 10,000 buttons. Distribution will begin soon.

A joint campaign for postcards will be done with the Ontario Health Coalition with the goal of 100,000 signed postcards. Petitions will also be available.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

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

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### **More on the Long-Term Care Campaign:**

- The National Union will provide a web site link to fax your MPP, the premier, and the leaders of the opposition, by simply putting in your postal code and signing your name.
- Workplace media events using members who will volunteer their time to staff a facility to our recommended standards for one day, as a joint effort with employers to bring press and attention to the declining conditions, and to show the public what long term care should look like. Outside there would be an information picket event. The proposal has already been made to Roseview Manor in Thunder Bay and they are considering our request.

**To make this campaign a success we must not only call on the support of those working in long-term care, but of all our members. Canadians have always been proud of our care towards those in need, and our seniors and others who require long-term care should be no exception.**

### **Harbour View Child Care Centre Joins Local 229**

After waiting patiently for more than two months the Harbour View Day Care Centre workers are finally members of CAW Local 229, voting overwhelmingly in support of unionizing. Their employer delayed the count by appealing to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to have some members excluded from the bargaining unit. Thanks to the hard work of CAW Organizer, Jim Pare in Toronto the Board ruled that all the members were indeed included.

Elections for a workplace committee were held May 27<sup>th</sup>, with Angela Celiero becoming Unit Chair, and Gail Motut the committee person. Proposals and bargaining will begin soon.

While this is Local 229's first child care centre, CAW nationally represents several workplaces and has valuable experience in this field.

We offer a warm welcome to our newest sisters in our Local and commit to helping them make significant improvements to their working conditions.

### **CAW Local 229 Second Annual Executive Council Highlights**

CAW Local 229 held its annual Executive Council Meeting on May 2 and 3 at the Prince Arthur Hotel. Unit Chairs or their designates were present from all parts of Northwestern Ontario, from Kenora to Geraldton and Marathon.

During the two days the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Unit Chairs gave updates on their Units and/or Committees. Several guest speakers were also heard. They included Peggy Nash, Assistant to the National President, Howard Hampton, MPP and leader of the Provincial NDP party, Bonnie Satten, candidate for the NDP, Thunder Bay Superior North Riding, Gary Schepanick, Thunder Bay City Councilor, and Evelina Pan, President Thunder Bay and District Labour council.

Workshops were held on Saturday. Paul Pugh, President of CAW Local 1075 instructed a workshop on the Duty of Fair Representation, while Tom Murphy CAW National Representative, taught on Collective Bargaining and Ratification.

A political debate was held at the conclusion of the council, ending with a motion to recommend affiliation with the New Democratic Party. The Provincial New Democrats have developed a platform titled "PublicPower" which clearly embraces all the issues that are important to working people. Howard Hampton's speech on public power was both eloquent and passionate, and we wish the NDP every success in the expected fall provincial election. The platform is available at [www.publicpower.ca](http://www.publicpower.ca)

A social was held on Friday night giving the Unit Chairs a chance to network with each other. The whole 2 days were well organized by Amy Rubino, Education Chair, and we extend our thanks to her for an outstanding event.

### **Did You Know?**

Donations to political party's are 75% refundable at tax time to individuals for donations up to \$200.00. That means a \$50.00 donation will only cost you \$12.50. Remember, big business doesn't support the NDP as they do the Tories and the Liberals. Working people do.

## **CAW Health Care Conference, Port Elgin, May 29, 03 – June 1, 03**

Recently, CAW National held the first ever Health Care Conference at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin. The five CAW Council delegates, Andy Savela, Marg Arnone, Jason Cummings, Amy Rubino, and Katha Fortier attended. Because of the cost associated with conferences for our local, we reduced the numbers of delegates attending CAW Council in April from 5 to 1, in order to send more to this conference.

The Education Centre itself is quite amazing. Located on Lake Huron, it consists of several connected buildings that hold classrooms, meeting rooms, recreation rooms, accommodations and a large cafeteria with great food, for the various functions held there. In addition to an assortment of conferences, the centre hosts family education weeks and various weeklong educations through the PEL (Paid Education Leave) program, which any members are entitle to apply for once their unit has bargained PEL. Information on PEL courses are mailed to unit chairs, and I would encourage all activists to apply.

Probably the most important issue to be brought forward that weekend to the conference floor was a resolution presented by our President, Andy Savela. It called on the delegates to support the addition of a health care worker to the CAW NEB (National Exectutive Board) at the Constitutional Convention this August. The NEB currently has 16 elected members from across the Country that meet regularly with the National President, Buzz Hargrove, to set direction for our union. Our lobbying for a health care worker on this board began at CAW Council last December, and was initially met with some resistance. But through some perseverance and discussions with other like-minded locals, unanimous support was given to this resolution and to support Nancy McMurphy, a Health Care Aide and President of Local 302 (the largest Health Care Local in Ontario with 6000 members) as the official delegate.

The rest of the conference consisted of a variety of guest speakers and workshops. Information on the workshops, which included Workload Issues, Funding Formulas, Accommodation of Modified Workers, and Workplace Harassment, is available at the local office. Guest speakers included Natalie Mehra from the OHC (Ontario Health Coalition) who spoke about the campaign to save Medicare, and the need for frontline health care workers to be involved in this important project, Dan Benedict, a CAW Retiree who was a former OHC co-chair, and has been a huge defender of medicare, a health care worker from Argentina, who spoke about the horrible affects privatization has had on their health care system, and Dan McClenen, President of the Alberta Public Service Union, an engaging speaker, and the only labour leader in Canada to support publicly, our right as workers to change our union.

As a postscript, we have been told that the CAW NEB has met and is supporting our resolution for the addition of a health care worker to the NEB. This will go a long way to ensuring this becomes a reality at the August Convention. Convention delegates were acclaimed last month and will be Andy Quarrell, Gary Muzyka, Katha Fortier, and Andy Savela.

### **George Jeffery Children's Treatment Centre Ratifies Agreement**

On Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> after 3 days of bargaining, members at George Jeffery Children's Treatment Center overwhelmingly ratified a new collective agreement by 88%.

Highlights included increases in mileage and meal allowances, improved pregnancy and parental leave language, use of sick time for medical appointments, a 5% pay increase split over 2 years, a signing bonus, and employer contributions to Paid Education Leave (PEL) Negotiated employer contributions to PEL allow members to access PEL education courses at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin. PEL has been particularly difficult to bargain at some of our workplaces, but well worth the effort.

Congratulations to the bargaining committee, Lorraine Wardle, Kelly Goold, and Tara Barber.

## Local 229 Women's Committee Report

The Women's Committee of Local 229 initiated a campaign for The Community Residence Women's shelter that started with a donation of \$2000.00 from the National Union on International Women's Day, and culminated with a fund-raising drive at Victoriaville on Mother's Day, which collected another cheque for the shelter in excess of \$400.00. Telephone time for people to call their Mothers for Mothers Day was graciously donated by Thunder Bay Telephone and those making a donation received a free call to their Mother anywhere in the world, along with a carnation. During the campaign, units of Local 229 collected several boxes of much needed items for the shelter in their workplaces. Household appliances, furniture, clothing, toys and food were collected. The Victoria Order of Nurses Unit presented the Women's shelter with a cheque that they collected from their dress down days. Several petitions were signed by Local members and the public to be sent to Government officials to protest any plans to reduce the number of beds for the shelter and to address the issue of continued funding for this worthy cause. CAW Local 229 strongly supports the Women and children of our community. A poem was written by Cherie McEvoy Director of Women's Issues and presented to Kathleen Sherban for the Women's shelter and will be hung there. Our thanks are given to the hard work of all the members of the Women's Committee, their families and friends, fellow employees, and members of the Executive who donated their time to this worthwhile cause. Donations to the shelter can be made anytime by calling Joyce at 625-2430.

Women's Committee Members

Suzanne Pulice -Committee Chair

Katha Fortier - Local Vice President

Cherie McEvoy -Director of Women's Issues

Linda Magierowicz -Recording Secretary

Susan Wragg

Kim Gosnell

## Secret Wars by Cherie McEvoy

They are victims of secret wars  
battles concealed behind closed doors  
And in that hell they cry alone  
the screams of thousands all unknown  
All dignity, peace and innocence  
lost in the rage of a wielding fist  
Lies and secrets understood  
where fear is worn like a bloodied hood  
Stinging hands, and words that tear  
despairing alone their pain to bear  
Children hiding from the screams  
gone forever their peaceful dreams  
All trust gone no where to hide  
Until This Place Where Hope Abides  
And here they come through open doors  
the victims of those insane wars  
And here they heal and find again  
a stronger person deep within  
And when they leave this sheltered place  
their pain is now with hope replaced  
They came as victims through the doors  
but leave as heroes of secret wars

## Welcome Back Ed!

Management in many workplaces has often taken the opportunity to recruit some of our best activists to the "other side". Well, now we've learned, that for a change, we got one back.

Former steward and CAW activist, Ed Fisher has reconsidered his transfer to management with the City of Thunder Bay, in the Superior North Emergency Medical Services. We extend a warm welcome, and a commitment to fulfill Ed's dream of dressing CAW, right down to his boxers!

