



**Executive
Committee
Local 229**

President
Andy Savela

Vice President
Katha Fortier

**Recording
Secretary**
Amy Rubino

**Financial
Secretary**
Jason Cummings

Trustees
Marg Arnone
Peter Sabourin
Suzanne Pulice

Seargant-at-Arms
Barb Maki

**Director for
Outlying Regions**
Chris Millington

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

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

Federal Election June 28!

Below: Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton meets with CAW Local 229 and National Rep September 03 in Thunder Bay for tour of St. Joseph's Hospital



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Federal Election June 28/04

CAW Local 229 Members are urged to pay close attention to the upcoming election and the surrounding issues and Local 229 President Andy Savela warns everyone to be wary of the Liberal campaign tactics. "We've seen first hand in Ontario just what promises mean to the Liberal Party in the form of an Ontario Health Care Tax that will remove as much as 1.5% of real income from working people." He continues, "Not only does this tax break a pre-election promise, but it is much harder on those who make less money; if you make \$200,000 a year, the tax is less than one half of a percent, hardly noticeable, at that end. And perhaps more importantly, while the Conservatives and the Liberals say they are committed to publicly funded health care, they refuse to guarantee that it will be publicly administered."

Only the New Democratic Party, under the leadership of Jack Layton has shown that they will embrace the values of working people. A recent provincial by-election in Hamilton was an overwhelming NDP victory, giving the provincial party official status, an obvious indicator that the tides are turning. The NDP have made eight major commitments to the people of Canada.

Eight NDP Commitments

- Create opportunities and jobs in a green and prosperous economy.
- Improve public health care with innovation - not privatization.
- Invest in cities and communities through clean water, housing and transit.
- Expand access to post-secondary education.
- Make life more affordable and secure - starting with protecting pensions, removing GST from family essentials and expanding childcare.
- Strengthen Canada's independent voice for peace, human rights and fair trade on the world stage.
- Restore integrity and accountability in government.
- Balance the budget.

The CAW Women's Department has launched a "Woman to Woman" campaign, encouraging women across the country to educate themselves on the issues and vote for a government that will work for them. Over 32% of the NDP candidates are women, a significantly higher rate than the Liberals at 24% and the Conservatives at 11% NDP candidates include CAW Assistant to the President Peggy Nash who visited Local 229 last year. More information on the campaign is available at www.caw.ca/women

For information on voting contact Elections Canada at 1.800.463.6868 or visit their website www.elections.ca

If you are interested in helping the NDP by volunteering, taking a lawn sign, or making a donation (donations are now 75% refunded up to \$400.00 through your taxes!) please contact the local union office.

Local 229 Election Results/ May 04

Local 229 Elections were held on May 13, 2004 for Executive Board and Council Delegates.

Results are as follows:

President;	Andy Savela
Vice-President;	Katha Fortier
Financial Secretary;	Jason Cummings
Recording Secretary;	Amy Rubino
Sergeant at Arms;	Barb Maki
Women's Director;	Cherie McEvoy
Out-lying Director;	Chris Millington
Trustee's;	Marg Arnone, Peter Sabourin, Suzanne Pulice

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

Elections were held on May 10, 2004 at the Lakehead University with the following results:

Unit Chair; Heather Dubois

Steward; Barry Slater

Bargaining Committee; Heather Dubois, Brian Beraskowich, Carol Bobyk, Kurt Dahl

Health & Safety Committee Representatives; Heather Dubois, Carol Bobyk

Northern Hospital Group Prepares for Bargaining/June 04

Proposal meetings will be wrapped up this week for the ten hospital bargaining units in Local 229. It is hoped that local negotiations will begin in September, with master negotiations to follow soon afterwards.

Long-Term Care Plan Released/ May 2004

The Ontario Liberal government has announced their long-awaited plan for long-term care based on a report by Monique Smith, MPP. Credit goes to the CAW Ontario Health Care Council for its leadership on the issue of quality standards in long term care facilities, and also to the thousands of CAW members and retirees that participated in the Dignity is a Minimum Standard campaign. While the Liberals fell short on the issue of a minimum staffing standard of 3.5 hours, most other elements of their plan show the effect of the CAW campaign. The campaign, working in conjunction with the Ontario Health Coalition, has made a difference for Ontario seniors. Out of the 8 point CAW Ontario Health Care Council Position Statement, the only areas not addressed in the report were the minimum staffing standard and an increase in the \$112 resident comfort allowance. However, the \$191 million announced is sorely needed to increase staffing levels and care levels as the reforms begin to take effect. Katha Fortier, president of the CAW Ontario Health Care Council, said 'this report is as significant for the long term sector in Ontario as the Romanow report was for Medicare to Canadians - pointing the direction forward but requiring continuing efforts to ensure the report is translated into action.' 'Monique Smith should be commended for personally visiting numerous facilities and looking through the eyes of residents and staff at the need for change' said Fortier. The recommendations include many long overdue changes the CAW has advocated: toughening enforcement, providing whistle blower protection, ensuring accountability and improving quality of care after a decade of neglect by the Tories. 'We need to now ensure the Liberals are held to their commitment to higher standards in long term care as they set out to implement this report,' Fortier said.

City Homes for the Aged News/ June 04

Local 229 representatives met with Mayor Petersen and City Chief Administrative Officer, Robert Petrie in May to discuss the cities' decision to not rebuild Dawson Court and Grandview Lodge.

The city maintained their position as one of fiscal prudence, saying that they did not want to go into debt to finance the construction, and that the provincial government was not providing enough funding. The city did indicate that they want to continue to operate the two homes, and that in their discussions with Ministry of Health representatives, no one indicated that they were at risk to lose their license to operate these facilities by not rebuilding, and would only lose access to the construction funding.

Local 229 President, Andy Savela, has written to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, George Smitherman the following letter;

Dear Honourable Minister;
I am writing to you today on behalf of our Local Union's 600 members employed at The City of Thunder Bay Homes for the Aged. We are concerned about the future of the Homes due to a recent decision by our City Council not to rebuild the Grandview Lodge and Dawson Court Facilities. It is our understanding that these Homes are "D" listed and were to be replaced by 2006. In recent discussions with the City it became evident that it is not clear what your Ministry's response will be to their decision. Our greatest concern is that the City may possibly lose control of these beds, and they fall into the private for-profit sector. Our experience has been that when long-term care beds are administered by a corporation that is more concerned with shareholders than seniors, levels of care are reduced. In response, our Union is lobbying that Council ensure that these publicly funded and administered beds remain in our community to accommodate the large population of seniors who live here. We believe we have the support of the public on this issue, and in fact several letters in support of rebuilding were sent to City Hall, and published in the Local Newspapers. It is my hope that you can clarify for our union, what the repercussions of the decision made by City Hall. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this issue further. In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend you and your Ministry on your recent announcement on reform in the long-term care industry. While our Union has, and will continue to advocate reinstating minimum standards, we appreciate the efforts of yourself, your Ministry, and in particular MPP Monique Smith who took the time to meet with representatives of our union while preparing her report.

A committee from the Local Union and the City Homes will meet with MPP Michael Gravelle later this month to discuss the position of the Provincial Government on this issue. MPP Bill Mauro has not yet responded to a request to meet.

Local 229 Members Attend Second Annual CAW Health Care Conference



Local 229 members joined more than 130 delegates from across Canada June 4 to 6th at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck, Nova Scotia for the CAW National Health Care Conference. Professor Larry Haiven from St. Mary's University presented his research on the right to strike in the health care sector. He noted governments have become more prone to intervene to end health sector strikes, whether legal or 'illegal' and to impose the terms of the contract as has occurred in British Columbia and Newfoundland this year. The CAW national health and safety department also provided an overview of the "sick hospital" syndrome – a detailed presentation on the environmental and occupational hazards in health care workplaces illustrated by recent concerns at the New Waterford Hospital in Nova Scotia. Workshops engaged delegates for the remainder of the conference with topics ranging from resident-staff abuse; communicable diseases and infection control; workload issues to privatization and contracting out. Cecil Snow, president of the hosting CAW Nova Scotia Health Care Council thanked those who contributed to the success of the conference.

"The opportunity for health care workers to come together from across the country to support, share and learn from each other's struggles and successes is absolutely vital," said Katha Fortier, president of the CAW Ontario Health Care Council.

CPL/Versa Bargaining to Resume/ June 04
Bargaining will continue in Toronto June 25 to 27 for the Central CPL/Versa group of 13, that includes Roseview Manor and Versa Care Centre in Thunder Bay. Committee members are optimistic a deal can be reached soon. A CAW group of 17 nursing homes reached a deal last week, and details will be released after the ratification meetings, scheduled in the next two weeks.

Local 229 Member Honoured by City/May 04



Brother George Saarinen was given an Exceptional Citizen Award at the 28th Annual Official Recognition Awards for his volunteer work with organizations like the Ringette Association and School Councils. Brother Saarinen is also active in Local 229, chairing the Election Committee and a delegate to the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council. Congratulations George!

Hogarth Riverview Manor Bargaining to Begin for First Agreement/ June 04

Bargaining will begin June 24 and 25, 04 for a first agreement for HRM. Unit and Bargaining Committee Chair, Lorraine Frappier is looking forward to the process. "We are anxious to negotiate and put in place a good agreement for our members, who work extremely hard for the residents."

Local 229 Members Attend Picnic in Support of Injured Workers/ June 04



Members of Local 229 attended a Picnic at mini Queens Park on Injured Workers Day, June 1, 2004. Petitions in support of improvements to WSIB are being circulated at CAW workplaces and more information on the campaign is available at <http://www.caw.ca/whatwedo/health&safety/takeitback.asp>