



**Executive
Committee
Local 229**

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Vice President
Katha Fortier

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Marg Arnone

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WEST**
Gary Muzyka

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

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

Local 229 Leads International Women's Day March

Below: Over 100 Marchers gather at Paterson Park preparing to deliver petitions in support of appropriate shelter for women and children *More information inside.....*



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CAW Local 229 Leads International Women's Day March/ March 8, 2004

CAW Local 229 Women's Committee took the lead in Thunder Bay and organized a well-attended International Women's Day March in support of women and children who require shelter.

This initiative extends from the long-standing relationship between the local 229 Women's Committee and the Thunder Bay Community Residence, a shelter that provides emergency shelter for women and children who require it, regardless of the reason. Suzanne Pulice, Chair of the Women's Committee and Unit Chair at Pioneer Ridge explains that they have supported the shelter for several months as they have faced the threat of closure. "We know that they provide a valuable service to the community, and with their closure at the end of the month, we are not at all certain that the resources they offer will be available in the city." The Residence halted admissions last month, and is scheduled to close their doors officially on March 31st.

CAW Local 229 Executive Board Women's Director, Cherie McEvoy handed petitions containing hundreds of signatures to Mayor Lynn Petersen, and spoke about the hardships women and their children face when they suffer the abuse of poverty. "Women who must choose between paying their hydro bill or their rent, or buying groceries, who may find themselves and their children homeless, may now have no where to turn." Other city shelters for women and children are only mandated to accept women and children if they are escaping abusive relationships.

Local 229 President Andy Savela, commended the women's committee on their successfully organized march. "It is incredible to see that our women's committee is able to stir so much enthusiasm for this critical issue in our city and Mayor Petersen clearly saw that there is community support and has committed to deliver our message to the Minister of Community and Social Services, Sandra Puppello; and that in itself is a victory." He continued, "It is inspiring to see that International Women's Day can be used to send such a worthwhile message." Petitions can still be sent to the Local Union.

Victorian Order of Nurses Bargains One-Year Deal/ February 2004

Members at the Victorian Order of Nurses (Clerical and RPN Units) voted 100% in favour of a one-year collective agreement.

The agreement will see a 1.5% wage increase and improvements to language, including job-sharing language.

The VON has struggled over the last few years, as competition from for-profit home care agencies increases in the city, and fewer people who need home care are actually receiving it. Local 229 Vice-President Katha Fortier reports that there are still several home care workers on lay-off and there is a large amount of people waiting for the services they could be providing. "We know that there is a vicious cycle in this city where we have an almost continual bed crisis in hospitals, nursing homes are at full capacity, and yet those on the waiting list for home care, who could be in their own homes are denied."

The VON has had their contract with the Community Care Access Centre extended for one year, and are cautiously optimistic that the situation will improve by next year and allow them to remain open for business in Thunder Bay. While CAW supports publicly administered health care, not-for-profit operators are preferable to corporations who are more interested in turning a profit than caring for people.

Bargaining committee members at VON were Unit Chair, Geri Chivers-Wilson and Lucy Michalak. They were assisted by Katha Fortier and National Staff Representative Tom Murphy.

Annual Executive Council Update/March 04

Plans are underway for the third annual CAW Local 229 Executive Council Meeting to be held at the Prince Arthur Hotel in Thunder Bay on April 30 and May 1st, 2004. This year, in addition to unit chairs, stewards from all units will be invited to attend. CAW Local 229 Education Committee Chair Amy Rubino says that this is something that was asked for last year by those attending. "Unit chairs felt it was very important for their stewards to be able to participate in this event." The Council will include reports from the local executive and units, educational sessions, and guest speakers.

Election Committee Update/ March 04

Brother George Saarinen, Election Committee Chair, reports this has been an extremely busy time for all of the committee, but that so far, everything seems to be under control. "With 29 separate bargaining units all requiring elections in a short time frame, all the committee members have been working extremely hard." Here are the results so far:

Note abbreviations BC=bargaining committee; S=steward, UC=unit chair,

Manitouwadge Hospital

UC & BC; Pat Gould

S & BC; Shirley Biggin & Bob Lennie

H&S; Joe Courtemanche

Geraldton Hospital Office and Clerical

UC & BC; Alice Popowski

BC; Andree McMahon

Grievance; Jocelyne Marino

H&S; Anne Safroniuk

Geraldton Hospital Paramedical

UC & BC; Jim Delbianco

S & BC; Karen Lawson

Grievance; Linda Carlson

Wilson Memorial Hospital – Service Unit

UC & BC; Michelle Angers

S & BC; Maxine Wells

S; Louise Blake

Wilson Memorial Hospital Paramedical Unit

UC & BC; Sue Gosselin

BC; Wanda Tobin

H&S; Martine Gagnon

Nipigon Hospital Paramedical Unit

UC & BC; Stephanie Jean

BC & H&S; Steve Mangoff

Nipigon Hospital Service Unit

UC & BC; Anne McMahon

S & BC; Marlene Aylward, Ginette Goodman

Thunder Bay Emergency Medical Services

UC & BC; Pat Dixon

S; James Long, Jeff Monas

BC; Pat Dixon, Enn Kurm, Jeff Monas, Randy Oleski

H&S; Ian Moorfield, Andre Kennepohl, Elaine Graham

Fort William Clinic

UC & BC; Donna Insley

S & BC; Karen Yawney, Nancy Cameron

H&S; Carol Besignano

George Jeffery Childrens Centre

UC & BC; Nicole Deschamps

S & BC; Holly Rigby, Beth Toms

Atikokan Hospital

UC & BC; Cami Lind

S & BC; Kristi Roy

S; Gary Sportak, Cheryl Johnson

BC; John Cain

H&S; Theresa Stamler

St. Joseph's Care Group – Service

UC & BC; Barb Maki

S & BC; Lilly Aiello, Tim Stout

S; Karen Krzyzewski, David Polhill, Dave Taylor

BC; Evelyn Nadeau

Hogarth Riverview Manor

UC & BC; Lorraine Frappier

S & BC; Sheri Filograna, Donna Anderson

H&S; Val Babin

St. Joseph's Smith Clinic

UC & BC; Amy Rubino

S & BC; Dawn Fors, Norma Otway

H&S; Mary Jane Hogan

Victorian Order of Nurses Clerical

UC & BC; Geri Chivers-Wilson

S & BC; Lucy Michalak

H&S; Patricia Zawaki

Victorian Order of Nurses; RPN

All positions vacant

Setterland Group Homes

UC & BC; Brad Slobodian

S; Loan Lamburt

Superior North Emergency Medical Services

BC; Jan Morrison, Henri Veillieux, Randy Boomhower

S; Michelle Wright, John McKinnon

Dawson Court

UC; Jody Powers

S; Angie Granholm, Vaughn Magill, Sharon

Gredraitis, Kim Cameron, Jane Stonepoint

Pioneer Ridge

UC; Suzanne Pulice

S; Susan Wragg, Mairi Patola, Paul Sgambelluri

H&S; Danielle Dupuis

Placement; Susan Wragg

Community Care Access Centre

UC & BC Ruth Sitch

H&S; Donna Dorval

Jasper Apartments

UC & BC; Judy Yurchuk

S; Diane Hobischuk

Grandview Lodge

UC & H&S; Heather Scarcello

S; Kim Eagles, Ramsey, Annie Auger, Geri

Arps, Carol Anne Madore, Vicky Ducharme

Placement; Cherie McEvoy

Election Committee Update cont.

Nominations and or Elections are underway in the following units; OPTION's, Lakehead University, Township of Terrace Bay, Catholic School Board, Stelmaschuk-Northern Youth Centre, Versa Care Centre, and Roseview Manor. It is expected that all unit elections will be wrapped up by March 31, 2004, slightly ahead of schedule. The committee will then have a short break before they begin work on the Local Executive Board election. Nominations will be posted in all workplaces by the second or third week of April, so please watch your union bulletin board.

There was some confusion for the election of the bargaining committee for the City Homes for the Aged, and a decision on possibly re-running that election will be made at their unit meeting March 15, 2004.

Remaining unit elections will be reported in the next newsletter.

Township of Terrace Bay Ratifies Three Year Deal/ March 9, 2004

Bargaining Committee Members, Kathy Pivato, Kerry Quennell, and Patti Moon recommended acceptance of a three-year collective agreement that saw wage increases of 2% in each year, improved benefits for boot allowance, vision care and life insurance, and vacation increases for long-service employee's. The agreement was overwhelmingly ratified at a meeting in Terrace Bay on March 9, 2004. Unit Chair Kathy Pivato reports that the membership overall were pleased with the deal. "Our members were pleased to see both wages and benefits improve, and language areas that have been problematic tightened up." The agreement now ensures that members off on WSIB or sick leave will not lose vacation accrual. Pivato also added, "This is the first time our employer has bargained without the constant assistance of legal counsel, and that in itself, sped up the entire process, allowing us to come to a deal much sooner than usual." In recent past, it has generally taken over a year to reach agreements with the Township.

The bargaining committee was assisted by Local 229 Vice-President, Katha Fortier, and National Staff Representative, Tom Murphy.

Collective Bargaining Workshop/ March 04

If enough interest is expressed by Local 229 members, a one-day collective bargaining workshop will be scheduled for May 2, 2004, at the end of the annual Executive Council. 25 names are needed to run the education. Please call or email the Local office by March 22nd if you are interested.



Dignity Postcards Delivered/ March 2, 2004

MPP Monique Smith (right) accepts thousands of Dignity Posters from Ken Brown CAW Health Care Director, Katha Fortier, CAW Ontario Health Care Council President and Local 229 Vice-President, and Nancy McMurphy CAW NEB member and President of Local 302.

The meeting, held March 2, 2004 in Toronto was also attended by CAW Assistant to the President, Bob Chernecki and CAW Researcher Corey Vermey. Smith is responsible for developing a report for Minister of Health George Smitherman on reforms needed in long-term care. An hour-long discussion with Smith on long-term care issues followed the delivery and the committee was able to bring forward the CAW position that must include whistle-blower protection for members, and should focus not only on catching abuse, but preventing it through minimum staffing levels. Smith has agreed to a follow-up meeting after the report has been submitted.

Master Bargaining for CPL Group Opens in Toronto/ March 3, 2004

CAW Assistant to the President Bob Chernecki, opened bargaining for the CPL group in Toronto, taking a firm stand on our intention to make major improvements in the sector. Two Local 229 Homes, Roseview Manor and Versa Care Centre are involved in the bargaining. They are represented by Reggie Davis, Mona Hurd, Linda Waganaar, Jason Cummings, Local 229 President Andy Savela, and National Staff Representative Tom Murphy.

