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# Picket-Line Press NEWSLETTER

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Picket-line solidarity is one of the foundations of trade unionism where the smallest acts of kindness, encouragement, and support give members the strength needed to continue the fight for a fair settlement. Be Union – Buy Union – Support Union!



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## 1421 Union Families and 281 Children Felt Your Love Last Christmas!

OPSEU 426-Rockland, CAW 252-Toronto, CEP 37X-Timmins, USW 526-Toronto, USW 1-1000-Pembroke, USW 7536-Toronto, USW 1-500-Brantford, USW 1005-Hamilton, USW AMCOR –Toronto and USW 8782-Nanicoke thank you for **YOUR support and words of encouragement** over the holidays.

Each strike/lock-out has been prolonged and difficult. The **solidarity, strength, and leadership** of these 10 unions and their members, is commendable and inspirational!



Taking strike action and challenging an employer's corporate agenda and concession demands is not an easy decision...especially during an economic downturn. It takes a **tremendous** amount of **courage** and **determination to stand up and fight for the future**. It becomes even more difficult while enduring the holiday and frigid temperatures. It is not uncommon for the members of smaller locals on strike to feel isolated and forgotten.



YOUR **kindness, compassion, and action** clearly had an impact and **YOU helped** to spread the Cheer this Christmas in record emails, meetings, phone calls, and faxes! **YOUR efforts made Christmas much brighter for 1421 union families** struggling to make ends meet. **281** children received a toy Christmas morning because **YOU cared** enough to get involved. **YOUR empathy** resulted in **900** smoked hams, **130** turkeys and **366** bags of groceries or over **2600** non perishable food items being donated.



**YOUR generosity** broke every record we had to date by raising donations totaling **\$93,274** which resulted in **1450** grocery gift cards being handed-out to our Brothers and Sisters walking picket-lines throughout Ontario.

Alone, we are a group of ordinary people. When we stand together in solidarity we are an **extraordinary** network of **100 + volunteers, 188 union locals, committees, and labour councils.**



## WORKING TOGETHER TO DEFEND THE NEXT GENERATION



By Sid Ryan - President, Ontario Federation of Labour

Toronto, ON - This year's Christmas holidays will come at a time when anxiety about the future of jobs is on everyone's mind. For the first time in history, today's children may find themselves less well off than their parents' generation. Job losses, two-tier wages and increasingly precarious employment could mean that good jobs will be gone before today's youth enter the workforce.

Over the past year, when CAW, CUPW and CUPE members have pushed back against this attack on the next generation, Prime Minister Harper has sided with employers and stripped workers of their collective bargaining rights. Meanwhile, corporate crooks with bad labour records continue to find their stockings filled with gifts from the Harper government.

Corporate taxes, which have been cut ten times since the year 2000, were dropped again this year to an all-time low of 25 percent in combined federal and provincial rates, down from 42 percent a decade ago. However, rather than converting these massive savings into new jobs and investments, CEOs and shareholders are pocking this public money and investing 7.7 percent less in job-creating machinery, equipment and technology.



It looks like this year the top one percent will be getting fat on Christmas turkey while the rest of us get starved out of house and home. Without corporations paying their fair share, the government is left with a \$4 billion annual shortfall that will translate into the layoff of 80,000 federal public service employees and thousands of provincial public sector workers. Challenging these cuts isn't just about saving jobs, it is about defending the communities helped by public services and calling on our government to serve the public good, not private profit.

For workers and their families who are caught up in protracted labour disputes, the outpouring of solidarity demonstrated on picket lines and through *Operation Christmas Cheer* is a lifeline that gives the strength needed to continue fighting for a better future for us all. Unions need to bring this optimistic and principled spirit – which was so wonderfully personified by Jack Layton, but is being lived every day by labour activists and volunteers – from the bargaining table to the streets. It is time to mobilize together to put pressure on all levels of government to protect good jobs, public services and retirement security for the next generation.

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**OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS  
CHEER**  
Proudly Helping Union Families Since 2004





## To YOU: From the Locals/Members YOU Generously Supported

### CAW 252 - Toronto

The 200 Toronto limo drivers who are members of CAW Local 252 and who were locked out for six months by their employer greatly appreciated the grocery store vouchers they received from Operation Christmas Cheer and delivered by Sid Ryan from the OFL last December. This gesture not only put a smile on these CAW members' faces, it also ensured that they felt part of a bigger and very supportive labour family. This support came at a crucial time for these workers. The lock out ended in May 2011 with all members returning to work. Thanks again and in solidarity. **Abbot Harvey, President of CAW Local 252**



### USW District 6 – Eastern Canada

On behalf of USW members and their families across District 6, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization for the tremendous work you do to provide the much needed relief during this special time of the year. In 2010, your organization worked closely with volunteers from the District. Together we were able to put smiles on the faces of our members during the holiday season. Our Sisters and Brothers at US Steel (Hamilton), ECP (Brantford), Lind Furniture (Mississauga), Multiserv (Nanticoke), Infinity Rubber (Toronto), Commonwealth Veneer (Pembroke) and Sears (Vaughn) all appreciated the generous donations of food, grocery gift cards and toys your organization provided.

This Christmas season we still have a number of locals on strike in the District and they are in dire need of your assistance. Our Sisters and Brothers at Infinity Rubber (Toronto) are fast approaching two years on the picket line and our members at Alumicor (Toronto) have been on strike for eight months. Commonwealth Veneer (Pembroke) has been on strike since April 2009 and more recently Inkas (Ottawa) since October 3rd 2011.

In each case our members and their families continue to battle their brutal and uncaring employers. In most cases these employers' only commitment is to their shareholders and their bottom line. They forget about the people and the communities they are destroying in the race to the bottom. Your generosity and tenacity gives our members the courage they need to "Stand Up and Fight Back" against their unscrupulous employers. Once again, many, many thanks for your support and assistance.

**In Solidarity, Wayne Fraser - Director**



### OPSEU 426 – Rockland

- Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You know that feeling you get when you feel kind of down on your luck and then all of a sudden you get a windfall. Your heart melts and your soul soars. You feel like you can take anything on. Well, that's how we felt when you came to visit us on the picket. To know that all those people out there, who gave of their time and money, coming to our aid gives us hope and confirms that we do belong to one great big OPSEU family of brothers and sisters who stand by each other. What an awesome team you have to help put all this together. My sisters and I would like to wish you and you family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thanks to your team, we will have a better Christmas with our family as well although times are tough for us now. Cheers to you and all who have had a hand with this significant event. **Lynne Montague (Steward), Sylive Brunette, Rachelle Carrière, Nathalie Boisvenue, Renée Yuill, Catherine Rusaw, Pauline Deschamps, Karine Giroux.**
- We don't feel so alone anymore on our picket-line now knowing there are wonderful people out there who give to our cause whether in time or funds. We are totally amazed at all the outpouring of support from fellow our Brothers and Sisters via Operation Christmas Cheer. It has touched every single one of us a way that we will never forget. Christmas Angels...that's what you are! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **Lynne Forest Montague**

### USW 8782 - Toronto

All of the men of USW Local 8782 (Harsco Metals) would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the gift cards and toys that we received from OCC on the picket line. Spending the past two Christmas on the line has not been easy for some of our members but gestures such as this help to make this Christmas just a little bit brighter. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we all hope that you and your family have a very merry Christmas.

### USW 1-1000 Pembroke

- Just a note to express thanks from the 40 members on strike at Commonwealth Plywood in Pembroke. The gifts of food, vouchers, grocery gift bags, hot lunch and toys were greatly appreciated. On a positive note, we won the case for the members to get their vacation pay owed since July 2010. The members are still on the picket-line as we have been the past 18 months with no end in site. Thanks. **Michael McCarter - President, USW, Local 1-1000**
- On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to say thank-you for the grocery cards, bags of food, ham, turkey and toys that were given to us by way of the generosity of yourself and others. We as a family wish you and all those at Christmas Cheer a very Merry Christmas.

### USW 1005 - Hamilton

- Merry Christmas, and thank you for the voucher for the ham. I would also like to thank you and organized labour for all your support during our lock-out. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. Thank you again, In Solidarity, **Ron Jenkins USWA Local 1005**
- Just saying thanks for the ham. It was appreciated along with OCC's support for our local. **A locked out steel worker**
- My husband brought home a ham tonight donated by your organization. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. **Maryanne**



### CEP Local 37X - Timmins

This is our fifth Christmas on the picket line and hope has turned into despair and a profound sense of loss. There is only one great blessing...Operation Christmas Cheer. Thank you once again the donations and support shown by so many Locals. It gave me great pleasure to once again be able to distribute the vouchers to the many deserving members of our Local. Your contributions were greatly appreciated and needed by so many of our people. Once again we would like to thank all the contributing Locals for their generosity and support. We would also like to thank Cas for her continued devotion and hard work on such a worthwhile project. **Rick Racine, Local CEP 37-X**

### USW 1-500 and the BDLC

- Great work Cas! Thanks for making us look good on the front page of the today's Expositor. Operation Christmas Cheer's solidarity and commitment our cause makes all the wheels turn. The BDLC would like to thank OCC for your support over the years. **Don Guest**
- Another year walking the line and another year with you by our side. OCC is a blessing! Never doubt how much good you do or how many lives you effect. **Alan**
- The food bank, vouchers and toys for my daughter could not have come at a better time. Thank you and everyone who supports our fight.





## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words









## A BIG THANK-YOU to the Following People, Unions, Committees, Councils and Companies Who Make Operation Christmas Cheer Possible

**Amalgamated Transit Union** locals 279 Ottawa, 1587 Toronto, 741 London, 1573 Brampton, - **Canadian Auto Workers** locals 88 Ingersoll, 27 London, 2163 Ingersoll, 112 Toronto, Independent Parts Suppliers Council – Kitchener, 1917 Guelph, 483 Cardinal, 1106 Kitchener – **Canadian Media Guild** — **Canadian Union of Postal Workers** Ottawa Women's Committee - **Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario Division** and locals 4186 London, CSU Solidarity Fund - **Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada** - **CEP Ontario Executive Board** and locals 914 Sarnia, 15 Komoka, 31X Espanola, 8833 Brantford, 52 Newmarket, 30-0 Belleville, 12 Plattsville, 232 Ottawa, 70-0 Thunder Bay, 3264 Ingersoll, 1178 Burlington, 27 Toronto, 32 Smooth Rock Falls, 34-0 Ottawa, 36 Corbeil, 39 Thunder Bay, 41-0 Streetsville, 44 London, 2025, 46 London, ECWU 65, 79M Ajax, 87M Toronto, 105 Dryden, 156 Espanola, 425G Fort Erie, 219-0 Bath, 256 Kapuskasing, 900 Caledonia, 92 Fort Frances, 247 Eastern Canada, 593 Oakville, 691G Fergus, Local 848, 1999 London/SW Ontario, 2003 Toronto, 685 Peterborough, 1541 Kanata, 565 Milton, - **Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union** local 225 Ottawa, 343 Toronto, - **CUASA Ottawa** - **Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario** - **EFTO Executive Board** and Algoma District Sault Ste. Marie, Upper Grand, Bruce Grey Elementary Unit Kincardine, Lakehead Elementary Teachers, Toronto Office, Kawartha Pine Ridge, York Region Occasional Teachers', York Region, Ottawa Carleton, Hastings-Prince Edward Belleville, Ottawa Carleton Occasional Teachers', Keewatin-Patricia Sioux Lookout, Rainbow Teachers' Local Sudbury, Peel Local Mississauga, Simcoe Muskoka Secondary- Elmvale, Toronto Occasional Teachers'— **Graduate Teaching Assistants Union** - **Int Brotherhood of Boilermakers** locals 128 Burlington - **Int Brotherhood of Teamsters** 91 Ottawa - **Int Union Of Elevator Constructors** local 96 Ottawa - **National Union of Public and General Employees-NUPGE** – **Ontario Nurses Association** – 80 Toronto, 125 Scarborough, 49 Wilno, 51 Cobourg, - **Ontario Public Service Employees Union** locals 634 Callander, 633 North Bay, 116 London, 658 North Bay, 667 Sturgeon Falls, 160 London, 102 London, 479 Ottawa, 499 Royal Ottawa Hospital Ottawa, 669 North Bay, 635 North Bay – **Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association Executive Board** and PNVC Unit Peterborough, Eastern Ontario-Kemptville, Bruce Grey Elementary, Kenora Unit, Simcoe-Muskoka Secondary, Algonquin-Lakeshore Kingston, Ottawa - **Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation – OSSTF Executive Board** and District 25 Ottawa-Carleton, District 13 Whitby, District 16 Newmarket, District 12 Secondary Teachers' Bargaining Unit, District 12 Toronto, W.E. Gowling PS, Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Tom Bickford, District 28 Haley Station, Educational Support Professionals Ottawa, – **Ottawa Professional Firefighters Association** local 162 - **Ottawa Newspaper Guild** - **Power Workers Union** local 1000 Toronto, **Public Service Alliance of Canada**, UTE 042 Sudbury, UNDE Ottawa, Union of Veterans Affairs Employees 43 Kirkland Lake, 70396 Canadian Museum of Civilization & Canadian War Museum Ottawa, AU 18 Harrow, National Component 70101 Ottawa, 70501 Orleans, AGR 70-138 Gatineau PQ, CEIU 70708 Gatineau, UTE Headquarters 70000 Ottawa,- **Service Employees International Union** Brewery General & Professional Workers - **Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees** C2 Sudbury, - **United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America** local 93 Ottawa - **United Food & Commercial Workers** 175/633 Toronto/Ottawa – **United Steelworkers District 6** and locals 6200 Port Colborne, 11-470 Montana USA, 1-500 Hanover and provincial, 650 Thunder Bay, 6654 Terrace Bay, 9415 Red Lake, 6500 Sudbury, 9511 Ottawa, 5055 Thunder Bay, 733 Brantford, 2020 Sudbury, 4820 Renfrew, 5481 Thunder Bay, 9422 Thunder Bay, 5890 Regina SK, 4120 Guelph, 9597 Ottawa and Ontario, 9246 Wawa

**Labour Councils** Ottawa District Labour Council – Durham Region Labour Council – Orangeville & District Labour Council - Timmins & District Labour Council – Brantford District Labour Council - Guelph & District Labour Council –North Bay & District Labour Council, Renfrew & District Labour Council

**Committees and Councils:** PSAC Greater Toronto Area Council, OPSEU London & District Area Council, London - CEP Ontario Women's Committee – CEP Ontario Primary Forest Council - CEP ON Communications Council - United Steelworkers North Western Ontario Area Council, United Steelworkers Eastern Ontario Area Council, Ontario Federation of Labour – PSAC Cornwall Area Council

**Companies:** American Income Life Insurance Company in Canada — Loblaws – [OutGROWOutPLAY.com](https://www.outgrowoutplay.com) - Enbridge

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**Special Thanks**, to these OCC Angels below. Each of you came though and made an impact in different way. Your involvement made Christmas much brighter and brought some much needed cheer to many in hardship.

**Individuals;** Chris Macdonald – CLC Toronto, Raymond Smith, Nancy & Kevin Faraday, Ron Shewchuk-Ottawa, Nelson Ross Ottawa, Ric Dagenais – Ottawa, Dany Lacombe & Deborah Mullins - Ottawa, Selena Walker – Stittsville, Marlene Rivier – Ottawa, Amy Rapoport – Ottawa, Robert J. Bialik – Ottawa, Vivian Payne – Toronto, Kathleen Link – Etobicoke, Madis Tarnbre – Mississauga, Barbara Kosow – Toronto, Zoran Grgar – Mississauga, Dan Maxwell-Kemptville, Gisele Pageau-Ottawa, Alan Wall – Toronto, Kristina Maher – Ottawa, Jenny Hearn – London, Sue Slean – Toronto, John Smyth – Toronto, Roger Smith – Texas, Daryl Barnett-Victoria BC, Scott and Peggy Smith - Texas, Diana Crosby-Texas, Debbie Gamble-Texas, Debbie Enstedt-Winnipeg, Karl Rinas & Donna Preston-Ruthven, Marlene Rivier Ottawa, Herb Danheir – Thunder Bay, Dave Lipton - Ottawa

- **Sid Ryan**, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour and **Marie Kelly**, Secretary Treasurer of the Ontario Federation of Labour for coming out to many of the picket-lines and helping spread the Cheer! Your support helped spread the cheer far and wide – no Ontario Family went without this Christmas thanks to your support!
- **Wayne Rae – USW District 6** for helping us coordinate the delivery to all the USW locals on strike and for lending OCC the Peel hall so we could pack and sort all the Christmas hampers.
- **Sean McKenny – ODLG**, **Gary Macdonald** and **Don Guest** - BDLC, **Jim Free** - DRLC, and all the wonderful people of each labour councils. Thank you to all the volunteers you rallied who walked the picket-lines, helped sort, bag and deliver groceries and presents.
- **Kim Ginter** CEP Regional VP Ontario, **Barb Dolan** and **Dave Moffat** CEP Regional Admin VP's for all their support and for delivering the cheer way up North to CEP 37X in Timmins.
- **Dan Lacroix** and UFCW 175/633 for arranging the purchase of the 900 hams for USW 1005 Hamilton.
- **Kenneth Coran**, President – OSSTF and **Sam Hammond**, President of ETFO. Teachers have HUGE hearts. Combined, these two unions sponsored over 200 families this year!
- All the AMAZING people over at the **Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers Federation** for the bags upon bags of toys!
- The executive board and members of **CUPE Ontario** and **Fred Hahn**, **IUEC Local 96**, **CEP Ontario**, **CEP ON Communications Council**, **NUPGE**, **CEP 2003** and for their extremely generous donations in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour that helped so many families.
- **AIL in Canada** for donating the truck, my time (giving me time off work) and a very generous cheque.
- All the people who dropped by the picket-lines, wrote notes of encouragement, donated items and or their time
- My family, Richard, Chase and Dylan...need I say more? They sort/pack groceries, load and unload the truck more times than anyone should ever have to...all without hesitation.



**This Little Section of the Picket-Line Press is Dedicated to  
Thomasina Gwen Hawryluk  
July 3, 1948 – September 23, 2011**

My beautiful mother Thomasina (age 63), who after a long and courageous battle with COPD and cancer was called home by God on her favourite day of the year,

She was a proud/loving/protective single Mom and she was my hero. On more than one occasion when I was a child, we received a Christmas food hamper. I speak from experience and my heart when I write what a difference it made in our lives over the holidays.

She was the person who taught me how to stand up and fight for what I believe in, what word and deed really means and the Importance of giving back to the community...even when you have little to give. While we had no money, we always had time and we spent many freezing nights in Winnipeg delivering Christmas food hampers for other families in need.

It was my Mom who encouraged me to do what I could 8 years ago for a handful of women on a picket-line. She was OCC's biggest cheerleader, supporter and over the years did everything from collecting food, to stuffing envelopes to packing hampers. She will be deeply missed, forever loved and never forgotten.