

UNION NEWS

Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Local 410

January 9, 2007

Edited by Secretary Karen Lewis

No Jay Forbes!

*Message from President
Phil Briffett*

Hi & Happy New Year Sisters and Brothers! Your new executive has now taken office and we had our first meeting January 4th. It was a very productive meeting and we are committed to having these on a regular basis and as frequently as is necessary to assist us in providing you with the level of service you expect and deserve.

In some instances we will be asking for your help, such as the recent call for stewards. We've planned 2 schools to provide those of you who will become or remain a steward the tools necessary to be an effective asset to our local. Schools are tentatively planned for Corner Brook in April, St. John's in May. If you are interested please get in contact with one of your executive.

I don't intend to be the 'Jay Forbes' of Local 410 and give a weekly itinerary but I will endeavour to keep you informed of the important issues and activities in which we are involved; We are planning a local E-board meeting for Gander in February. On March 11th we travel to Montreal to discuss pattern bargaining with the

other Telco locals of the CEP. There are many questions around this issue and all aspects of bargaining now that we are not just Aliant but BellAliant. We will keep you informed of any pertinent information related to these issues. In April and May we will be visiting all the CEP Local 410 sub-locals and units in the province.

There are many issues to address and much work to be done. We will endeavor to deal with all issues as effectively as possible and keep you informed. One good way to keep informed of the issues is to attend monthly meetings in your area. We would be more than happy to see you there!

Time for Action!

*Message from VP
Mary Croke*

On January 1st I officially took on the role of CEP Local 410 Vice President.

The new executive has met and are taking action to get back to regular communications with our membership.

With that in mind, I'd like to tell you about an issue of utmost importance in our Union and province, the crisis in the forestry industry.

You will remember the hard fought battle of CEP last year in Stephenville to save the paper mill. It was a struggle that was lost when Abitibi-Consolidated made the decision to close the mill permanently. That scenario is being repeated across the country with more than 10,000 jobs lost in the forestry industry in the past 3 years and dozens of communities facing economic ruin.

The federal government has been silent in the face of this crisis and has cancelled previously proposed programs proposed to assist the forest industry. Forest companies are exploiting the climate of crisis to eliminate capacity at the expense of productive mills, good jobs and local economies.

CEP has declared **January 22, 2007** as a **National Day of Action** for forest sector jobs. The plan calls for CEP locals to pressure the federal government to address the crisis and protect jobs. As a member of the CEP National Executive Board, I will be attending the CEP sponsored symposium on Parliament Hill. There will be Radio adds' airing and CEP Locals all over Canada are organizing events. CEP Locals in the 'paper towns' of Corner Brook and Grand

Falls-Windsor are working on a petition.

What can you do? On January 22, 2007 log on to www.cep.ca and email a pre-written letter of customized message to your MP.

Lets help our Union sisters & brothers bring attention to this crisis.

C does stand for Communications

*Message from secretary
Karen Lewis*

When we do Union Orientations for our new members, we explain that the C in CEP stands for Communications. The communications sector is an important element of our national union.

Unfortunately, as a Local, communication is where we have fallen short. I'm pleased to report that your new executive has a plan to change that!

I'll highlight some elements of the plan:

We will be ensuring, through monthly E-Board conference calls that your Sub-Local/Unit chairs are informed, and armed to inform you of what's happening with in our Union. We will be distributing 'Union News' the monthly newsletter that you are now reading. It's our intention to include reports from your executive and from any local committees wishing to report on events. We will also endeavor to report on member news (ie; Deaths, retirements ect) so if you have info you'd like to see in the newsletter please get in touch with the us.

We also are in the process of getting estimates & proposals on developing an up to date,

interactive website for the Local.

This is the start of a new time for our Local and I assure you, from here on out, the C in CEP Local 410 really does stand for **communications!!!**

\$\$ Money News \$\$

*Message from Treasurer
Bridget Rowe*

Happy New Year! Last year was challenging for us all as a local, but we managed to keep above it all and our finances are looking good. (copies of financial statements are available upon request). This year will bring an end to our benefits pay back and it will be paid in full by the end of 2007. I thank you all for your patience in getting this loan paid. I shiver to think what might've happened if anyone had to go 5 months without benefits and with fear of not getting insurance again once it had been canceled.

Sub-Local/Unit Meetings

Members are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting in their area. At time of distribution a complete list of dates & times of these meetings wasn't available, but members can contact the chairperson in their area- and stay tuned- we'll include dates & times next month!

Deaths

We regret to announce the passing of retiree Harry Brake. Brother Brake's family will be presented with a bible honoring his years of solidarity by Stephenville Sub-Local Chair Terry Hoddinot & we extend our

deepest sympathy to the Brake family.

Stop the SCABS!

*By Karen Lewis
with files from the CLC*

As members of Local 410 we are no stranger to the term SCAB. We were forced to use it repeatedly in the five months we walked a picket line to save our jobs. We know for a fact that when Scabs are used during strikes, labour disputes last longer and get nastier.

It is time for federal anti-scab legislation. Canada needs political leadership for the millions of people who make this country work, and not the multi-million dollar corporations who try to ignore our rights. Federal Law cannot leave workers rights in the balance when it comes to scab labour.

The third vote on bill C-257, the Anti-Scab Bill is expected to occur in the House of Commons later this month. It is vital that Union members contact their MP's and ensure they vote in favor of the legislation. Your executive is sending letters to all MP's in NL encouraging them to vote yes, and we encourage all members to do the same. We can email you a copy of the letter so you can send one yourself. We expect as well that the CLC will have a link, so members are encouraged to check www.canadianlabour.ca as a way to contact your MP.

It's time to stop the Scabs!