



Local 972

# Lock-Out Information Update

Wednesday April 25 / 2006 - Locked out for 122 days



As of today our members have been locked out for **122 Days** and continue to show their solidarity and determination to achieve what they rightfully deserve, a fair and just collective agreement which also meets the eastern pattern. Our members to date have taken everything that was thrown at them, such as constant media stories from the company as they try to do their bargaining in the papers, radio, and television.

The executive and negotiating committees are very proud of the membership for their continued support and they can be reassured that the committee is strongly committed to working towards a positive resolve to this lockout on their behalf. Our last meeting, which was requested by the company through the provincially appointed conciliator, on Easter weekend produced two proposals along with a recovery plan and the negotiating committees will be meeting shortly and making a counter proposal, more to follow on this later.

Stora Enso have also involved others such as the provincial government, and municipal government of Richmond County in their vision for a successful business plan, and we **strongly encourage that members call their MLA** and also the Warden of Richmond County to ask where they stand, as it our members along with the surrounding communities they represent.

**MLA Inverness and Premier of Nova Scotia - Hon. Rodney J. MacDonald - 424-6600 or 258-2216**

**MLA Richmond - Michel Samson - 424-8637 or 345-0778**

**MLA Guysborough Sheet Harbour - Hon. Ronald Chisholm - 424-8953 or 533-2676**

**MLA Antigonish - Hon. Angus Mac Isaac - 424-5875 or 867-1915**

**Warden of Richmond County - Ritchie Cotton - 226-3986 or 345-0677**

On another note Ron and myself recently attended the North American Works Council meeting in Wisconsin and while we were there we met with Union Leaders from the US, Belgium, Finland, and Sweden who all represent workers at Stora Enso. We had very informative meetings with these Union leaders and a lot of information was exchanged and Ron like myself can tell you, they are watching closely how we are being treated by this company and are behind us 100%.

We toured four mills while there which were Wisconsin Rapids, Kimberly, Niagara and Stevens Point and spoke with many union members who all asked about our situation.

Ron and I believe it was a worthwhile trip and they want our membership to know they will continue to support us in any way they can.

Along with their moral support they also made very generous financial donations to us while we were there.

If the membership has any concerns or needs during this lockout or want information please do not hesitate to contact one of our committees or executive members as most days there is someone in union office.

Regarding information on this web site we are limited to what we post, as we all know that we are not the only ones accessing the site.

We will try and continue to post any new pictures, meeting notices, donations etc. but feel free to drop in to office anytime just to socialize or ask more in-depth questions.

Regarding donations and support the surrounding communities, individuals, affiliates, and other unions continue to show for our local, we are forever grateful to them and it will be remembered for a long time to come.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone, that this Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> is "The National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job".

The Strait Area and District Labour Council are unveiling a plaque in memory of these workers at a ceremony which will take place at the in the foyer of The Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre at 6:00pm followed by a social at the union hall.

In closing on behalf of Ron and myself I would like to thank again our sisters and brothers of the United Steelworkers of America and all the other affiliates from the US, who treated us and union leaders from Finland, Sweden and Belgium the very best while we were in Wisconsin meeting with them, and also thank them on behalf of all the members of CEP Local 972 for their continued show of solidarity in our struggle.

Yours in Solidarity!

Tom Mc Namara (Ch.)  
Community Outreach Committee  
CEP Local 972

