

ONLY SOLIDARITY CAN MOVE AN EMPLOYER TO DO THE RIGHT THING

"I am heartened because what we see is obvious even in places like the NHL, we see an awakening from the darkness of division and the hope for a better and brighter future. Until of course, a new and deepening crisis, after George Floyd it was Rayshard Brooks. Now we know the name Jacob Blake, who, while his life was thankfully not taken, will live paralyzed with the consequences of a broken society. A policeman fired seven bullets into Jacob's back at close range. He was shot SEVEN times by someone sworn to protect him. Is it any wonder that it has come to this?"

Oppression comes in many forms and through oppression comes division. You see, our employers keep workers divided, by telling you that there is only so big of a pot and that workers have to compete against each other for it, all the while executives line their pockets with million dollar bonuses because they then can show the stockholders that they kept you the workers in check.

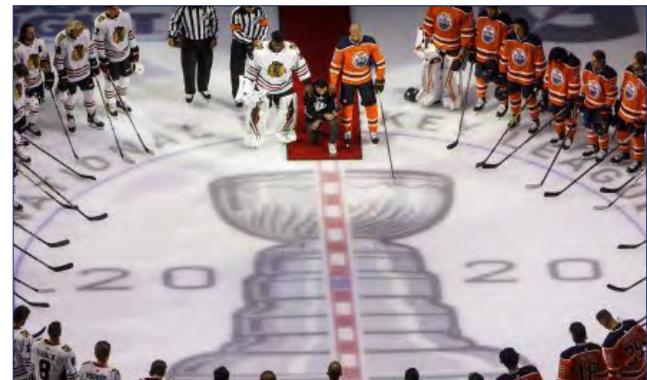
Movements are successful when we all stand or kneel together or at least in great numbers. The show of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement is inspiring and the Kap has got to feel proud. One person at a time, Greta demonstrates this as well; her with her lonely sign moved a globe into action.

Movements are not easy and not for the faint of heart, walls of moms and leaf blower dads being teargassed because they saw injustice and dared stand up to it.

Solidarity is a powerful thing and should never be underestimated; it is the only thing that moves an employer to doing the right thing.

Remember this as we head to the bargaining table looking to take our fair share out of their multi-million dollar pockets. #BLM, #Solidarity."

— Acting President Donna Hokiro



Regina's Matt Dumba becomes first NHL player to take a knee during the anthem



Lebron and fellow Lakers take a knee during the national anthem

THE DEATH OF CUPE MEMBER JIMMY MARTIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED UNDER THE WESTRAY LAW

In August last year, CUPE member Jimmy Martin died on the job as he was working on a site near Woodstock, New Brunswick, and fell through the railing. He was 64 years old.

According to the judge, the temporary set up for railings on the job site was held together with plastic zip ties and wire, which was not adequate to protect workers from falling.

According to the United Steelworkers, this "death should have been investigated, charged and prosecuted under the 2004 Criminal Code amendments known as the Westray Law. Jimmy Martin and his family have been let down by the courts, which fined the New Brunswick Department of Transportation \$125,000 for an incident that was preventable and possibly criminal."

"This was negligence on the part of the employer," said USW Director for Canada Ken Neumann. "It should have been treated as a crime before any other government agency stepped in. It is wrong that a government department should be protected — not prosecuted — by another provincial department. Justice has not been served in this case."

Learn more about the Westray Law and Stop The Killing campaign [here](#) and sign the petition [here](#).

"This case makes crystal clear that the government of New Brunswick considers the lives of workers to be cheap. What disincentive is there to prevent this kind of negligence from happening again, if it only involved the government paying itself a fine? What does \$125,000 of taxpayer money matter to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, with an annual budget of \$890 million? This is less than the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure's total annual salary. What if the savings to the Ministry caused by cutting safety corners is much more than this expense?"

Yet, even the maximum allowable fine is \$250,000 under New Brunswick law. And there is no provision requiring the government to pay its fine to a charity, which would at least cause some net expense to government.

It's probably not a coincidence that the law is so retrograde in a province in which only the Liberals or (Progressive) Conservatives have held power for 100 years. This death should have been investigated as a crime, which is the purpose of the Westray Law."

— Submitted by Michael Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer

SOLIDARITY

ON THE PICKET LINE WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WORKING AT CESSCO

On August 6, Acting President Donna Hokiro joined other activists on a picket line in Edmonton to show solidarity with members from the Boilermakers Local 146, who have now been locked-out by Cessco Fabricators since June 28, 2020.

"I walked with Sisters and Brothers and friends from the Alberta Federation of Labour and affiliates to show support for locked out Boilermakers in Edmonton," said Acting President Donna Hokiro. "Locked Out since June 28th, these true activists held the picket line with unwavering determination, even holding a scabmobile in place, who repeatedly pushed against picketers. Shame Cessco!"

Many employers are using the current economic crisis to take advantage of their workers. Cessco workers have not enjoyed any real substantive increase to working conditions or wages taking zeros in the last five years; and now Cessco bosses want to roll back wages roughly 10% and make cuts to pensions and other working conditions. The members of the Local are even willing to take a rollover, another set of no increases but NOT roll backs, they're not Walmart.

We need to stand in solidarity with these workers, so that the struggle that they face today does not become our struggle tomorrow. Wear your Local 1944 colours, a face mask, and join them on the line!



Left picture, from left to right: Acting President Donna Hokiro, Tammy Sale from the Health Sciences Association of Alberta and Emma Pyke from the Alberta Federation of Labour. Right picture: Acting President Donna Hokiro and Alberta Federation of Labour Secretary-Treasurer Siobhan Vipond

TAKE ACTION!

Where: Cessco is a very high-visibility location in Edmonton, just south of Whyte Avenue on 99 Street. The address is 7310-99 St.

When: The picket line is there from 6:00 am to 5:30 pm and they can use support any time.

Do you work off the clock?

DID YOU TAKE THE SURVEY YET?

No one should be **working off the clock**. If you are, that could mean that your job metrics are unrealistic, and not that you are underperforming.

Are you working through your breaks? Are you being asked or do you feel that you have to work before the start or at the end of your shift?

[Click here to share your feedback and/or examples.](#)

*Here are some examples of what working off the clock looks like:
Working past the end of your shift and not submitting either a MTR (more time request) or a WPS (work past shift); Working through or not taking your breaks; Logging in to systems before your shift has started*

HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

Because a right denied to one is a right denied to all,
Local 1944 members need to hear from you!

Contact your Local Union Representative
Share your story by email at communications@usw1944.ca



IN YOUR PROVINCES

TAKE ACTION

Throughout Canada: The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has helped millions of unemployed Canadians, supporting those who lost their jobs during the pandemic. But it is being phased out in September, with a promise to shift those workers to Employment Insurance (EI). The EI system needs a major overhaul. The Canadian Labour Congress asks workers to [send a letter to the prime minister and your MP and tell them to reform EI now](#). We're hearing stories from the US about families running out of money and losing their homes. Canada mustn't become complacent and buy outdated rhetoric, if COVID has shown us anything, it is that our economy is outdated and is in desperate need of an overhaul. What happens to our Southern neighbour can and will happen to us if we don't take a stand and renounce it. To be better we must do better.

In British Columbia: Statistics Canada data shows that sexual assault is the only violent crime on the rise in Canada and that intimate partner violence disproportionately affects women and working-aged Canadians. Yet, BC is one of the only provinces without paid domestic violence leave. The BC government is currently undertaking public consultations on this important issue. [Take action now!](#)

REMEMBER AND HONOUR

In Quebec: Jean Gerin-Lajoie, a strong figure in the FTQ and the very first Quebec director of the Steelworkers, passed away last month at the age of 92.

Gerin-Lajoie served as Steelworkers Quebec Director from 1965 to 1981 and Quebec Federation of Labour Vice-President from 1959 to 1981. He became director of the USW Quebec at a time when everything had yet to be done.

"He greatly helped to build and bring structure to our union, the labour movement and the world of work as a whole. He has left us an immense legacy," said USW Quebec Director Dominic Lemieux.

Many consider Jean Gerin-Lajoie a pillar of the trade union movement in Quebec.

MEMBERS HAVE THE FLOOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to thank the TWU Benevolent Society and Local 1944 for the kind retirement gift and letter I received July 15th.

My involvement with the labour movement over the past 50 years has been educational, and fulfilling. We brought positive changes to our working conditions and the communities we serve in.

I am very proud of our Local's engagement through the Unit 60 funding of the Food Banks and the hundreds of thousands of dollars provided mainly to women and children.

I am going to continue this social activism with the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees ([SOAR](#)), addressing the fight to protect the social, economic, and political concerns for Canadian workers. I want to continue to belong to a community of Steelworkers and be a major force for justice.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay calm.

In Solidarity,

Douglas Cameron, from Unit 60

To Donna Hokiro and all TWU workers, thank you very much for all you've done for us. Have a wonderful Labour Day. Very sincerely,

Polly and Al Hawkins, respectively retired from Unit 31 and Unit 7

The Local Union is thankful to Polly and Al Hawkins, who have been sending annual hand written cards and gift bags at Christmas time and for Labour day since the labour dispute in 2005.

Polly started in 1980 at BCTel (now Telus) as a storeperson and was a member for 37 years. Al started his job in 1981 as service technician, he retired in 2017. Both volunteered and helped with the TWU v IBEW vote.

Every year, on these occasions, the Hawkins take the time to write a card and send boxes of cookies, one for the Local office, one for the Unit 31 meetings, except for this year for the obvious reason. Every few months, Polly just calls to say thank you, and how very thankful she is for the Union and all the Local has done for her over the years. Throughout many different Local Presidents, Polly and Al always send something.

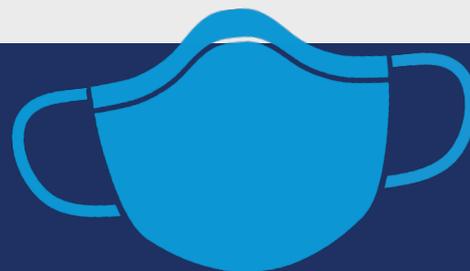
Thank you, Polly and Al, for your thoughtful gestures throughout the years. — USW Local 1944

THANKS TO A SISTER

The Local Union thanks Sister Sherry Fraser from British Columbia (Unit 1), who has been a member since 1974, for sharing with us her idea of distributing face masks to our members.

The face masks are being manufactured and every member will receive their free Local 1944 face mask within the next few weeks.

Wear yours with Union Pride!



#1944solid
#solidarité1944

STEELWORKERS HUMANITY FUND



The Steelworkers Humanity Fund is contributing \$5,000 in emergency relief to support the people affected by the massive explosions that have occurred in the Port of Beirut.

The funds provided by the SHF, contributed by Steelworkers members across Canada, have been donated to the Canadian Red Cross Lebanon Humanitarian Needs Fund, and will be used to provide health-care relief such as essential medications, equipment, supplies and training in the most vulnerable areas.



You can help! Make a donation at <https://1944.fyi/USWHF>

CONTEST



Display our "Thanks To All Telecom Workers" poster in the most creative and effective way, and win a \$500 Visa gift card!

ENTER THE CONTEST!



REMEMBER: You have the right to put this Union material in many places, including your Union Board, company truck, at your desk if you still work out of an office, or anywhere you are presently allowed to post personal items. For any other display ideas involving company property, please obtain manager approval first.

Enter your submission by September 15 at 1944.fyi/photocon-2020



Results will be announced on September 21, 2020



zoom



Join your Unit Meetings from anywhere using your laptop, desktop, phone or tablet!

ALL UNIT MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ZOOM WEBCONFERENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Access your Unit Meeting in one click!

Simply follow the link provided in your meeting notice, and enter your meeting ID. You can also call-in using the toll-free number.



Stay connected. Stay safe.