



INFORMATION UPDATE #13

April 25, 2011

Join Us on May 1st on Parliament Hill!

USW Local 1005 Calls on You to Take Up the Work to Change the Situation!



The People vs. U.S. Steel

Hamilton Steelworkers and their supporters bring the fight for Canada's pensioners and working families to Parliament Hill. We demand government that serves workers and their communities, not foreign corporations. Steelworkers Local 1005 members have been locked out of their jobs by U.S. Steel for six months. Fight back!

* Say NO to U.S. Steel's attack on working and living standards * Say NO to the attack on 9,000 pensioners * Say YES to government that defends Canadian workers and pensioners

Niagara Prepares for May First on Parliament Hill

Workers from the Niagara region are amongst the contingents of workers preparing for the Rally and March on May First on Parliament Hill to express their political demands. Buses are leaving from the CAW Hall on 124 Bunting Rd. at 6:00 am on May First.

On March 25, the Niagara Regional District Labour Council held a support rally and fundraiser for the locked out steelworkers of Local 1005. Seventy local union members and retirees from the auto, steel, and public sectors, including school teachers attended.

Council President and OSSTF member Dan Peat,

pointed out the importance of the fight for pensions and dignity in retirement for all being championed by Local 1005. "In this federal election pensions will be a main issue and we must stop the attack on retirees' security. Local 1005 has shown they will stand strong for pensions and we will back them to the hilt," he said.

Local 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger was greeted with a standing ovation. He told the rally that half of his 900 locked out members have less than ten years seniority and that these young workers are very impressed by the support shown for their struggle by the labour movement.

**Get on the Buses for May 1st! For information visit: www.uswa1005.ca
To contact USW Local 1005: Call 905-547-1417 or e-mail info@uswa1005.ca.**

Rolf explained that “the 1005 struggle is not just a labour dispute but a political action.” The May First Rally in Ottawa that Local 1005 has called will be an attempt to raise their struggle against U.S. Steel to another level. Local 1005 resisted both the pressure to call a strike and make concessions at the expense of the pensioners and young workers but demanded that U.S. Steel live up to its signed commitments.

Rolf pointed out the damage this wrecking activity is causing, citing figures that show how internal steel production in Canada is being cut while more steel than ever is imported, and that this is why one of Local 1005’s main demands is “Manufacturing Yes! Nation Wrecking No!” Most of Canada’s steel needs must be met with Canadian production, he said, and this is true of other industries as well. He rejected Tony Clement’s line of supporting monopoly right that “now U.S. Steel can do whatever they want.” Corporations must be forced to toe the line and the government must pay for this slap in the face by an election defeat, he said.

Rolf concluded saying that everyone is entitled to a pension and pointed out this was not just a struggle



against U.S. Steel Corporation. He said “the U. S. Government itself has declared the next generation of workers shall have no pensions. While the government of Wisconsin is attacking their workers now this will happen in Canada too unless we draw the line. This must not pass here. Here we are that line in the stand.”

On April 21, Brother Peat spoke at the Local 1005 Thursday meeting and presented Local 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger with a cheque for the \$1506 raised at the March 25 fundraising rally. He reiterated the point he made at the rally that Local 1005’s fight to stop the attacks on retirees is a crucial and that the NRLC appreciates the stand that Local 1005 is taking.

Workers Oppose U.S. Steel’s Looting of Hamilton Coke



Hamilton steelworkers have been in action to oppose U.S. Steel’s looting of metallurgical coke from Hamilton Works ever since they caught wind of the scheme in March. On April 17, beginning at 4:00 am until 10:30 pm, active workers and retirees from Local 1005 rallied on the Hamilton Lift Bridge to protest U.S. Steel’s absconding

with 20,000 tons of coke from Stelco/Hamilton Works on the Canada Steamship Line vessel *Assiniboine* for use in its U.S. operations. The coke belongs to Hamilton and its steel production facilities. U.S. **Steal**, hands off the coke, end your phoney lockout, settle the contract with the union and restart production in Hamilton!



Billboards around Hamilton

April 28 -- Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed on the Job

10:30 am -- Workers Monument, City Hall (Main St. West at Bay St. South)

12:30 pm -- At McMaster University (flag poles on the central campus)