



Labour Day Message

Rolf Gerstenberger, President of Local 1005 USW
September 4, 2006

**The Spirit of '46: An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!
Fight for the Dignity of Labour:
Defend the Rights of All!**

Another Labour Day, another battle won, another battle to win. Local 1005 USW has just come out of a three-year battle against the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* by defending the workers' rights, the rights of our pensioners and the interests of Hamilton and our region. We believe our stand in defence of the rights of our workers and retirees has strengthened our union to do the same under the present contract.

Recently we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the strike of '46 and produced a short film called "Keep the Flag Flying." We became even more conscious of what our slogan "An Injury to One Is an Injury to All -- All for One and One for All!" means to us. As a result, this year our banner reads: "Fight for the Dignity of Labour -- Defend the Rights of All!" and we are proud to have a delegation from the Six Nations with us in our contingent in the Hamilton Labour Day parade.

Local 1005's flag is flying in defence of the just stand of the Six Nations at Douglas Creek in Caledonia. We call on you to support their struggle for justice. There are historical wrongs that have to be corrected. But this has to be settled by talks. In the standoff already the government has been forced to admit that many agreements haven't been honoured, that it is necessary to go into what the agreements meant two hundred years ago and the spirit in which they were made, what happened to these agreements and how they should be honoured today. The native peoples are only standing for what belongs to them by right as we also do. This is what unites us today.

The native peoples are not after the houses of their fellow residents. They are asking for justice and redress, including all overdue rents past and present from the representatives of the Crown who have been violating the agreements for far too long and continue to do so. We call on our active and retired members and all Hamilton and area working families, so many of whom come from different national backgrounds and have suffered racial discrimination and attacks, to oppose the attempt to racially divide us between native and non-native. Do not permit our native residents to be treated as non-residents so as to isolate not only them and especially their kids, but isolate the justice of their cause.

We've been there for the past three years under CCAA when every attempt was made to isolate our just demands by claiming that we were trouble-makers and a lot more. In the spirit of '46, we uphold the dignity of labour by fighting for our rights. Now we can do no less in defence of the rights of all. Just as Local 1005 is opposed to the use of force to settle international problems, we are also opposed to the use of force to settle the Douglas Creek land claim. The Caledonia dispute must be settled by talks, not eviction, violence, racist attacks, daily provocations or sabotage by those with a hidden agenda. We call on all our members and pensioners to not permit the government, the media and hooligans to create their provocations and try to use racism to pit working families against working families.

It is a labour principle to uphold the cause of justice in this dispute and this year we continue to keep Local 1005's flag flying in its defence.

***Fight for the Dignity of Labour -- Defend the Rights of All!
Justice for the Six Nations!***

ANNOUNCEMENT

Every Thursday Local 1005 USW holds information and discussion meetings to discuss the problems facing the steel industry and the society. Local 1005 members, retirees and their families participate and invite other workers from the community to attend. The meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. at the Local 1005 Union Hall at 350 Kenilworth Avenue North.

For further information contact Rolf Gerstenberger at 905-547-1417, e-mail rolf.gerstenberger@uswa1005.ca or visit the Local 1005 website at: www.uswa1005.ca

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