



News and Views

C.E.P. Local 433

Volume 12 Issue 2

June 2008



Let's move on forest report: union

June 05, 2008

Inside this issue:

Business Agents Report	2
Buckeye	3
Special report	4-5
Good News	6
Sonocco	7
Retirees	8
NAFTA	9
Unisource	10
President's Report	11
Picnic	12

Next meetings are August 21, September 18 and October 16. All meetings start at 8 p.m.

OTTAWA – The report on Canada's forestry industry by Parliament's Standing Committee on Natural Resources lacks a sense of urgency to deal with the crisis in the industry, says Dave Coles, President of Canada's largest forest sector union. "In an industry where jobs are disappearing daily, and whole communities are at death's door, the time for action is now," he says, "not months from now." Coles also warned against the committee's recommendation to encourage more mergers and acquisitions in the industry. "This is a long-time demand of the large companies. But there is ample evidence that consolidation is no solution to problems like the forest sector is experiencing. In fact, in many cases these merger deals have saddled the operations with enormous debts that have led to mill closures." The union did applaud some recommendations, including the call for a national summit:

"We are pleased that the recommendation calling for a national summit with input from industry stakeholders, but the caveat that gives Minister Gary Lunn another 120 days to respond to the idea is exasperating. As forest workers and their families know too well, a lot can happen in four months." "We applaud the emphasis on tax incentives to R&D investment. We hope that the accelerated capital cost allowance will steer the industry towards developing technology that will take advantage of the future trend towards green biofuels. "We are also encouraged to see that incentives for green biofuels and environmental innovation are a priority, as we see this as a complement to the existing industry. However, we don't see biofuels as a substitute for traditional forestry priorities. They should be developed as a complement, by looking to use the otherwise unusable waste products.

Business Agent
Gord Campbell



Editors

Otto Wittenberg
otto_wittenberg@hotmail.com
James Monks
kojiro1070@hotmail.com

Publishers
C.E.P. Local 433
#102 - 8988 Fraserton Court
Burnaby, B.C.
V5J 5H8
Phone - 604-321-3471
Fax - 604-321-6249

email -
newsandviews@live.com
Web Page - www.cep433.ca

Business Agent
Gord Campbell



Printer - G.A. Roedde
#3 -12840 Bathgate Way
Richmond, B.C.

May, 2008

As you are aware, this is a bargaining year for our Local Union. To that end, our members at Sulzer Pumps recently ratified a new three year Collective Agreement. It calls for wage increases of 3% in each year of the deal. We also achieved a severance clause for plant closure, which they did not previously have. We completely rewrote their "Discharge and Termination" clause and got some language on a sunset clause for discipline, which again, they did not previously have. We also made some gains on language regarding "Temporary Employees" and got some fairly major gains in the progression rates, which should help with employees getting promoted.

At ACR Group, we have now exchanged agendas and have set up dates to start bargaining.

At Vision Packaging we are in the process of developing our agenda, and are also getting dates firmed up with the employer to start bargaining.

Iron Mountain and Unisource are not up until after the summer, so we have a bit of time with them.

With Catalyst, Crown, and Norampac, we are in a holding pattern until the Pulp Mill bargaining concludes. As of the writing of this article there has been one week of bargaining with Canfor and we are currently at the bargaining table with Howe Sound. Directly after we wrap up a week of bargaining with Howe Sound, we are scheduled to go back to the table with Canfor.

As you can see, it is an extremely busy year for us, but we are up for the challenge! Thank you for your continued support.

Gord Campbell

Articles appearing in *News and Views* express the views of the authors. They are not necessarily the policy of the CEP or views shared by the editors or CEP officers.

Buckeye

2008 has seen a bumpy start for us at Buckeye. December 2007 ended with us being curtailed for eight days through Christmas and New Years. Two weeks later (mid January) a second eight-day curtailment, with us returning to work for one week and ending off the month with yet another curtailment, for eight days once again. When we headed back to work in February, we came back to new crews and twenty-three of our union brothers and sisters being laid off temporarily. Our folding department dropped down to two crews from three and the mill going from seven crews down to five. Just as we were starting to think we might be seeing a bit of light at the end of the tunnel, along came the end of April with yet a fourth eight-day curtailment. To say the least 2008 has been a rough road for us so far.

Now that we are finished up with May and are heading into June we are seeing new customer names on our orders. We are hearing about new products being developed in conjunction with our customers, so we can start to head in a new direction with what we are doing. Hopefully with some luck, our attention to detail and quality, along with our hard work, we will see the stability of our company's past return.

The end of June to the middle of July should see at least ten of our laid off brethren return to work with a sixth crew being added into the mill. Volume has been rising in our folding department, at the moment no one is sure if that volume is going to hold or not, but if it does, that could mean the addition of another crew in the folding department.

Even if we only see half of what we are hearing about, in regards to new products, materialize over the year; our plant will be well on its way to being back on its feet. Hopefully putting the bumps in the road, we have been experiencing in the last while, well behind us.

Tom LeClaire

Executive of C.E.P. Local 433

President - Otto Wittenberg
Vice-President - Mike Beniach
Recording Secretary - Jams Monks
Financial Secretary/Business Agent - Gord Campbell
Treasurer - Tom Fulton
Trustee - Tom LeClaire
Trustee - Stuart Weiss
Trustee - Ken MacDonald
Inner Guard - Brad Johnson
Outer Guard - Greg Duff



*are the "U"
in UNION!*

A special report from James Flack CEP Local 601

“In a time of universal deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”-
George Orwell

On April 20-23 I had the opportunity to go to the Peoples Summit and the Energy Workers Forum in New Orleans as part of the Civil Societies answer to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) Leaders Summit. On Sunday April 20, I was at the Energy Workers Forum which was established to counter the North American Energy Working Group. This forum was well attended by members of CEP, USW, Common Frontiers, CUPE, COPE, CLC, and the Council of Canadians along with Unionized Brothers from Mexico's Oil and Gas sector. Many things were discussed; the most important being what labour and civil society were doing to counter the push for continental integration. It was agreed that the Energy Workers forum would take place every year in accordance with the SPP leader's summits in the future.

With security and prosperity being the main features of the SPP, George Bush couldn't have picked a better city the SPP summit. The question is Security and Prosperity for whom? A quick stroll through the downtown core and the very famous French Quarter show a city still in a process of rebuilding with many homeless and a lot of empty buildings. Three years later and prosperity has not returned to the lower 9th ward where most of the Katrina damage occurred. The facts in the lower 9th ward speak for themselves; 98.9% African American population with 68% home ownership yet it looks completely empty. Public housing projects closed, public schools closed, public teachers fired, public hospital closed. As you can see, there seems to be a certain trend in what took place after Katrina in terms of public services. How does this tie in to the SPP you may ask? Well the SPP is being sold as a trade deal that will increase the prosperity for all peoples through increased trade and access to markets. However a quick walk through the city that was picked to show off America's policies quickly shows who will be prospering, and it won't be people who already struggle on a daily basis to make ends meet and pay bills. When asking the people of New Orleans how their lives have been since the terrible tragedy of Katrina the stories are strikingly similar. Stories of being left alone, of Blackwater (private military) going house to house, taking firearms from legal gun owners, no communication to the outside world, no access to their own money, and no real help from FEMA or the Federal Government. Through the SPP it is apparent that corporations will have even more say in the governing of North America and with New Orleans as their pride and joy when it comes to privatization, it is VERY apparent WHO will be prospering under the SPP.

Career note: no only child has ever been elected U.S. president.

Monday, after a tour of the lower 9th ward, a bunch of us (Maude Barlow COC, Rick Arnold Common Frontiers among us) went to the New Orleans convention center to protest the SPP dinner that was taking place. The amount of security was 2 to 1 in favour of the security forces. Our pictures were taken by a man in a Federal Express truck parked across the street, and a green Honda Accord with two people in it who were going around the city and filming all protesters. Most people in New Orleans had no idea what was taking place in their city, leaving the protesting up to maybe 75 people throughout the entire three days, with a large majority being Canadians. It is quite clear that the "Land of the Free" is no longer, as Americans are subject to highly intrusive laws and attacks on their Constitution and Bill of Rights. When the Presidential Limo is followed by 8 econoline vans full of non-US military soldiers (Blackwater) with m16's, we may have lost a step about what freedom really stands for. It makes Jean Chrétien's defense from the pie in the face look almost childish and un-American.

As these groups continue to "harmonize" rules, regulations and laws, for the betterment of capitol, it is very important that this Deal receives far more scrutiny from everyday Canadians than it is receiving now. It up to us in the Labour movement, and as Canadians, to educate ourselves as well as those around us on this deal, as there is not one aspect of our way of life that this deal will not affect. We must educate ourselves on the background of SPP, from NAFTA to the North American Security and Prosperity Initiative (NASPI) by the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE) and their New Frontiers release in 2004; the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR) "Building a North American Community, and the CD Howe Institute's series on Borders and the future of Canadian and American Relations. We must read and follow up on the North American Competitive Council (NACC) whose members are ten of the top executives from Canada, USA, and Mexico and read their Annual Reports to Leaders.

The SPP has been setup from the start to be non-democratic, Sovereignty infringing and unaccountable to the people. A tour through New Orleans is proof as to who will prosper and who will be secure. It won't be middle class working families, as their jobs disappear and their ability to make a decent wage becomes harder and harder. Families' monthly insurance rates go up from \$50/month to \$450/month because of "Acts of God", making it harder to pay other bills. Bright young educated people working in hotels because Tips are worth more than their salaries. We as the future of not only labour but Canada, have to make the SPP an important elections issue, maybe one that is the top priority strictly based on the fact that no facet of our lives will be unaffected by this "jellybean and cornflake" deal, which is what they are telling us at their press conference. PM Stephen Harper questioned how Canada's sovereignty would be in question if we Harmonized regulations involving Jelly Beans at the Montabello Press conference. The answer is it won't, however when you are also "Harmonizing": Natural Resources, Energy, Health Service, Insurance Regulations, Banking rules and regulations, Military Command, No fly-lists, Asylum conditions, Border Rules and Security, Industry rule and regulations, Pharmaceutical Regulations (see tested once policy) Police and Intelligence Industries, than yes maybe, just maybe our perceived loss of Sovereignty and our suspicions might be closer to the truth than what they want us to believe.

The Good News Page

Compiled by Elaine Hughes CCPA Monitor

Bottled water banned

LONDON—Cabinet Secretary Sir Gus O'Donnell has written to the head of every government department ordering them to phase out bottled water. It is hoped that only tap water will be available in government meetings by the summer.

"The government is committed to sustainable operations across its estate," said Sir Gus, "and I have made this issue one of my key priorities for the civil service."

Some departments had already stopped offering bottled water.

UK Environment Minister Phil Woolas joined in the criticisms of bottled water, saying it was "daft" for Britons to consume six million litres of it when tap water is safe and cheap.

"It borders on being morally unacceptable to spend millions on bottled water when we have pure drinking water, and when at the same time one of the crises that is facing the world is the supply of water," he told the BBC's *Panorama* program.

—UK News.

It's not just milk...

RIVERDALE, CA—Imagine a vat of liquid cow manure covering the area of five football fields and 33 feet deep. Meet California's most alternative new energy.

On a dairy farm in the Golden State's agricultural heartland, utility PG&E Corp last month began producing natural gas derived from manure, in what it hopes will be a new way to power homes with renewable energy.

The Vintage Dairy Biogas Project, the brainchild of dairyman David Albers, aims to provide the natural gas needed to power 1,200 homes a day.

"When most people see a pile of manure," said Albers, "they see a pile of manure. We saw it as an opportunity for farmers, for utilities, and for California."

As cow manure decomposes, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide. Scientists say controlling methane emissions from animals such as cows would be a major step in addressing climate change.

Enter the Vintage Dairy project. As luck would have it, methane can be captured and treated to produce renewable gas.

To tap the renewable gas from cow manure, the Vintage Dairy farm first flushes manure into a large, octagonal pit. It is then pumped into a covered lagoon, lined with plastic to protect the ground water. After the gas is "scrubbed" of hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide, the end product is close to 99% percent pure methane.

Once treated, the gas is injected into PG&E's pipeline, where it will be shipped to a power plant in Northern California.

Biogas is seen as a major opportunity for dairy farmers to make extra revenue while helping the environment. With nearly 2 million dairy cows in California, the potential is great.

—Nichola Groom, Reuters.



Sonoco New West

Sonoco New Westminster

We have been slow since the start of 2008. Many of our customers have decided to try our competitor (Newark), and as a result, our volume is down substantially.

Two employees had been laid off this spring, and have just recently rejoined us as business has picked up slightly; hopefully the start of a trend.

Our finishing department has remained steady, and seems to be picking up lately; our winders have been running partial weeks, splitting the work week between the machines, as the orders warrant.

The following employees have reached these service levels:

Lyle Mielitz May 4th 14 years

Noel Ortiz-Luis May 15th 2 years

Phone Tint May 17th 2 years

Bryan Nebre May 23rd 2 years

Submitted by

Lyle Mielitz

Organically-grown food has more anti-oxidants

Fruits and vegetables grown organically contain significantly higher levels of cancer-fighting antioxidants than convention-ally grown food, according to a new study by the American Chemical Society.

Its research found that the pesticides and herbicides ap-plied to non-organic crops actually block the production of phenolics—chemicals that act as a plant's natural defence and are passed on to people who consume such plants.

The study measured antioxidants found in corn, strawber-ries, and other crops and found considerably higher levels of the cancer-fighting nutrients in organic than in conventionally grown foods. Levels were 58.5% higher in corn, 19% higher in strawberries, and as much as 50% higher in other fruits.

Another study reported in the *Journal of Applied Nutrition* compared the nutritional mineral content of organic and conventionally grown potatoes, apples, pears, wheat and corn that were purchased in Chicago. It found, on a per-weight basis, that average levels of essential minerals were much higher in the organically grown food. The organics averaged 63% higher in calcium, 73% higher in iron, 125% higher in potassium, 60% higher in zinc, 118% higher in magnesium, 78% higher in chromium, and 91% higher in phosphorus.

Retired Member's Council Report



Bill Arnold

May 30th, a luncheon was held for all CEP Retired members. Just under 50 attended, from Crown Pkg., Norampac, Pliant, Crown Folding, & Montenay. Bill Arnold from Crown Pkg. was there, the most senior member, and was the first to sign a Union card in Local 433 almost 70 years ago. Bob Barquest who was a leading member in the former Crown retiree group, was there, and was the winner of the 50 - 50 draw. There were 22 prizes given out, plus all CEP retirees received a retired member pin. All this plus a good lunch and much conversation. The Retired Members' Council will meet on June 14th at the Local office. If you know of any members about to retire, please let us know. On behalf of the Executive of the Retired Members' Council, thank you to all that participated.

Bill Newnham



NAFTA is by far the worst agreement Canada ever signed

By Murray Dobbin

In the aftermath of Barack Obama's and Hillary Clinton's threats to "re-negotiate" NAFTA—or pull out—the usual suspects have been activated to tell the world how wonderful the deal has been for Canada and the United States. There is no doubt that the business people who devised the scheme in the first place and sold it to politicians have benefited greatly from this investors' rights agreement and its predecessor, the Canada-U.S. free Trade Agreement. The continent's largest corporations have greatly reduced regulatory impediments to their profits, radically lowered labour costs, gutted Canada's sovereign capacity to pass new environmental legislation, and, in terms of investment restrictions, have virtually erased the borders.

All of those corporate benefits, however, have been extremely bad for other aspects of Canada and for ordinary Canadians.

But first, let's dispose of a myth about free trade: the notion that it was responsible for massive increases in trade between the U.S. and Canada. According to an Industry Canada study, 91% of the increase in trade in the 1990s was due to the cheap Canadian dollar and the sustained economic boom in the United States. Now that our dollar is at par or higher, our manufacturing exports are plummeting.

But even if NAFTA were responsible for increased trade, Canadian workers have paid a huge price. Throughout the 1990s, federal governments trumpeted the need to be "competitive" under NAFTA as an excuse to implement some of the most Draconian rollbacks of Canadian social programs ever undertaken. In the name of "labour flexibility," Paul Martin implemented drastic changes to EI eligibility, and repealed the Canada Assistance Plan, freeing the provinces to gut their welfare programs. His extreme low-inflation policy deliberately kept unemployment at high levels (8-to-10%) for most of the 1990s.

This meant that, throughout the decade, workers' real wages actually declined. They still have not caught up to 1981 levels. And the highly-paid 300,000 industrial jobs lost as a result of NAFTA are gone forever, replaced by lower-paid jobs.

NAFTA was supposed to unleash a flood of foreign investment—boosting our industrial capacity and productivity. Instead, since the first trade agreement was signed, more than 95% of direct foreign investment has been used to buy up Canadian companies. Head offices and research and development money have headed south, and Canada has seen a steady decline in manufactured goods as a percentage of its GDP for the past 10 years.

Our productivity has fallen behind that of the U.S. in virtually every year since the FTA came into effect in 1989. The environment has also suffered almost continuously since the deals were signed—and this is according to the Commission for Environmental Co-operation, the NAFTA agency responsible for monitoring the impact of the new regime. The North American Mosaic: The State of the Environment Report, released in 2001, declared that "North Americans are faced with the paradox that many activities on which the North American economy is based impoverish the environment on which our well-being ultimately depends."

It might also have mentioned that Canada has not passed a major new environmental protection law since NAFTA came into effect—at least not successfully. In two instances where it did try, NAFTA's investment chapter forced it to back off. In the Ethyl Corp. case, Canada tried to ban a gasoline additive, MMT, that damaged cars' catalytic converters (not to mention our health). The company sued under NAFTA and Canada withdrew the law and paid Ethyl \$13 million in damages. The resulting chill effect means we have no idea how many proposed new laws have been killed in their cribs.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada is an energy "superpower." But NAFTA virtually guaranteed that Americans, not Canadians, would be the beneficiaries of our energy resources. Canada now exports 63% of the oil it produces and 56% of its natural gas to the U.S. And because of NAFTA's proportionality clause, Canada is legally obliged to continue exporting the same proportion of our oil and gas forever, even if we face a shortage.

Next up is our water. The U.S. is already officially into its supply problems and it will, over the next 20 years, become a catastrophic crisis, outpacing even their predicted energy crisis.

NAFTA defines water as a "good"—meaning that, as soon as any provincial government signs a contract to export bulk water to the U.S. (by river diversion or tanker), nothing can stop further exports.

All of this, and for what? Allegedly, it was for guaranteed, predictable access to the U.S. market. But, of course, as the softwood lumber saga proved, there is no such thing. When its history is written, NAFTA could rightly be described as the worst agreement ever signed by a Canadian government.

(Murray Dobbin is a Vancouver-based CCPA Research Associate and Board member, a columnist for the online magazine The Tyee, and the author of many best-selling books.)

Unisource

AT UNISOURCE WE CONTINUE TO ROLL ALONG WITH BUSINESS BEING FAIRLY BUSY AND LOTS OF OVERTIME AVAILABLE SO MUCH SO THAT WE HAVE HAD A COUPLE OF O/T SHIFTS ON A SATURDAY JUST TO CATCH UP AND WE RECENTLY HIRED SOME NEW WAREHOUSE STAFF WHICH WILL HELP US AS WE ENTER WHAT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN A HECTIC TIME OF THE YEAR FOR OUR OPERATION.

IN APRIL WE HAD A STEP#3 GRIEVANCE MEETING AND WE COVERED A NUMBER OF OUSTANDING ISSUES AND WHILE THERE WAS SOME HEATED DEBATE DURING THIS TIME IT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE MEETINGS WE HAVE HAD IN QUITE A LONG TIME AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN CONTINUE THIS TREND.

AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY WE HELD OUR HEALTH & SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK AND WITH THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES HELD THAT ENCOURAGED A MORE HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AND RAISED THE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING AND FOLLOWING SAFE WORK PRACTICES, THIS WAS CAPPED OFF WITH A STAFF BBQ AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

FINALLY WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO WISH ANOTHER OF OUR LONG SERVING MEMBERS BOB GOSS ALL THE BEST IN HIS RETIREMENT

FREEDOM AT LAST!!!

A QUOTE: THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN IS HOW HE

TREATS SOMEONE WHO CAN DO HIM ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD.

BRAD JOHNSON



**433 Business Agent
Gord Campbell**

**e-mail us your
OPINION!**

**kojiro1070@hotmail.com
otto_wittenberg@hotmail.com
newsandviews@live.com**

President's Report

Next May will be the Provincial election in BC. Which party gets elected and by how many seats is highly important to all workers. Over the past years we have seen the difficulties unions have had to deal with under the Campbell Liberals. Some might say we have a better economy because of the drastic measures taken by the government while others like myself wonder how much better things would be if the Liberals did not have the power they wielded. Whatever your view, I feel it is going to be a very pivotal election. I urge all CEP members to get involved by volunteering some time in your constituency. Democracy is too important to just "leave it to others to do the work". There is a lot of bargaining going on this year in our Local. I am pleased to report that our finances are in good shape to handle the challenges this year may yet bring. I hope all of you and your families have an enjoyable, safe summer. Please do not forget our annual family Picnic at Deas Island Park, River Rd, Delta on July 12th at 11:00

Otto Wittenberg



www.cep433.ca

Article 23 - THE UN DECLARATION OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS:

Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment

Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work

Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests

People in your Local



Stu Weiss - Sulzer Pump

Early bird catches the worm or so we have all been taught.

Stands to sense, early worm gets caught.

Come to our Local Family Picnic

Picnic cancelled due to
lack of volunteerism

