

Volume 7 December 2014

# PARTSLINE



The Official Organ of Unifor Local 584 - Brampton PDC



*Happy Holidays!*

## CHRISTMAS GROUP THERAPY



Editors: Mark Machado, John McCloskey Editorial Committee: Kim Timmins, Chris Brookbanks,



## CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

### Gary Rumboldt

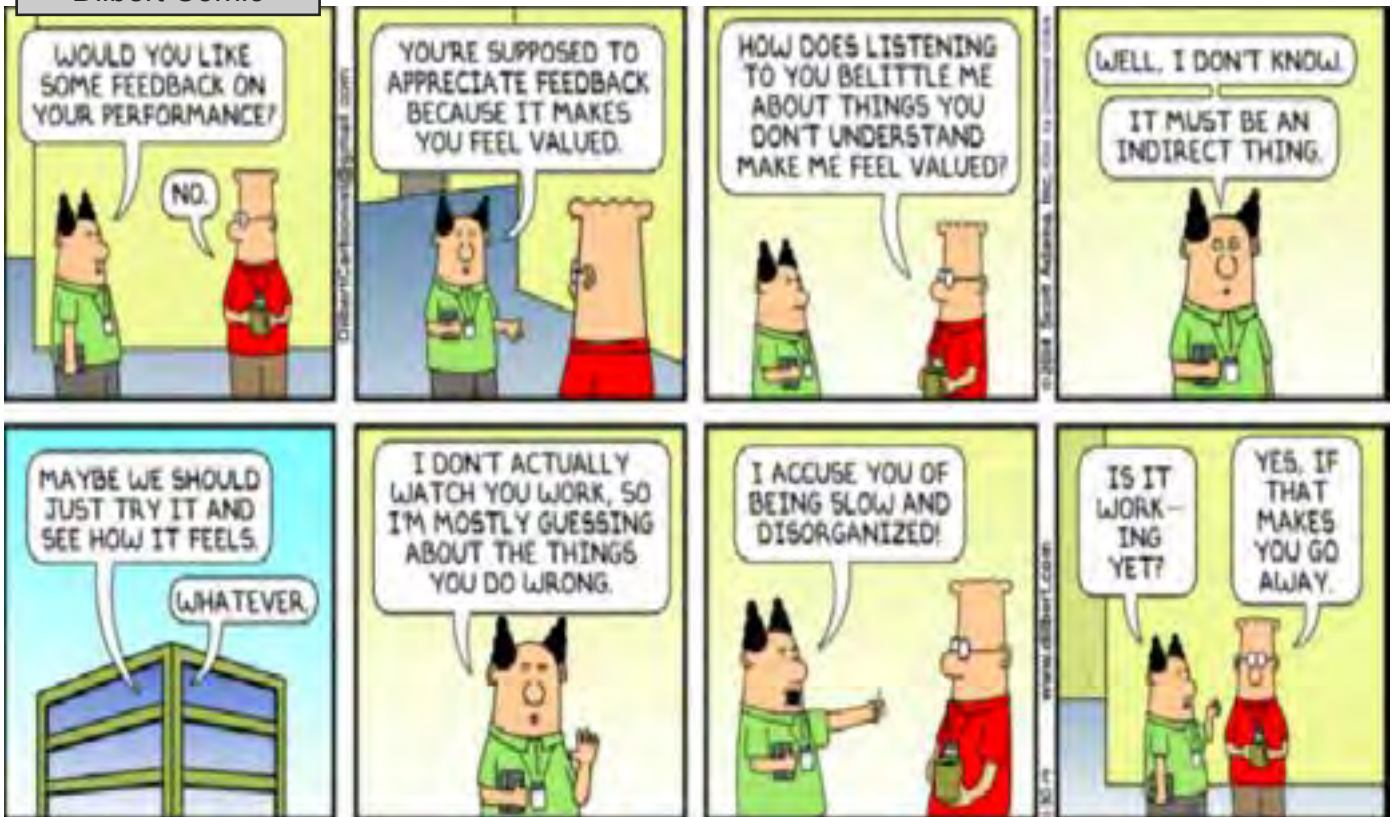
Brothers and Sisters, On Thursday November 27th, I attended our first Unifor Auto Council meeting in London Ontario. Delegates from Ford, Chrysler, GM and CAMI met to discuss challenges that each location was facing, and to come up with a strategy to face those challenges head on. Council had the privilege of listening to our President Jerry Dias speak, along with Jim Stanford and Bill Murnighan who discussed the next steps and strategies leading into 2016 bargaining. Jerry touched on GM and their growing concerns about not having any product commitment beyond 2016. He also spoke about the Chrysler plant in Brampton, which currently is running on a 2 shift operation, and in dire need of a new paint shop in order to be competitive with the rest of the global market. He then spoke about the devastating news that came out of Windsor,

when Ford announced it was giving work to Mexico rather than to our Brothers and Sisters out of Local 200. Brother Dias made it very clear how important it was that Windsor, Brampton, and Oshawa get product commitments coming out of 2016 bargaining. If we don't get these product commitments, then the future of the Auto Industry in Canada is unclear. Delegates from each location talked about the challenges that face them going into 2016 bargaining, especially at GM, Ford and Chrysler, who have shown no commitment towards future investment in Canada. Delegates were unanimous in not allowing our government just to stand back and watch our work go south and overseas without putting up a fight. That fight starts by defeating the Harper government, and making sure the next government leading this country supports Auto, and Manufacturing in

Canada. Brothers and Sisters, we need a government that will implement a National Auto Policy. We need a government that will support Canadian manufacturing footprints and stop the avalanche of work going to Mexico. We need a government that will rethink an auto trade policy and are partners in future investment of our Auto Industry. But most of all, we need your support in defeating the Harper government who undermine unions, unionized employers and unionized workers at every step. With your support in defeating Harper, the future of the Auto and Manufacturing Industries in Canada will look brighter, and will make us stronger going into 2016 negotiations.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday!  
In Solidarity  
Gary Rumboldt

### Dilbert Comic







## PRESIDENTS REPORT

**Barb Morrison**

What a busy agenda on my first year as Local 584 President! I wanted to share a few of our accomplishments from 2014. I would say the most important was in the Provincial Election with a great successful outcome for all workers with the defeat of Hudak and his destructive agenda! We as a Union had a lot at stake as well as every worker here in Ontario...maybe even all of Canada, so the long hours and hard work really did pay off. The distribution of information on the issues was second to none from the National office, the OFL and the CLC; and with all of us taking part as well as talking the importance of the election we did succeed. "FIGHTING BACK MAKES A DIFFERENCE".

Another big one was the expansion to Ford Council; Locals 584 Bramalea, 200 Windsor, 707 Oakville, 1087 Edmonton, 1324 Bramalea office, 240 Windsor office. All Ford locations are now represented on this council and together our goals can be shared and discussed. Not just for awareness of all location issues but also to support each other when needed. The re-

election of Brother Gary Rumboldt on Ford Council's Executive was another huge accomplishment for our local. The importance of us being part of this leadership is imperative and I can assure you all of the issues regardless of the size of your location are addressed and respected.

Brother Chris Taylor President of Local 200, Ford Windsor and President of Ford Council was elected as President/Chairperson of Auto Industry Council. With Ford being the smaller of the Auto chains this is also a BIG deal. As this Union has grown we recognize now more than ever all Industry Councils will have a bigger role to play to push forward the collective interests of that Industry. Each Industry has a position on the NEB (National Executive Board).

Local 584 also should be proud of the support we gave to many rallies, demonstrations, leaflet drops, strikes and picket lines this year. Too many to list in this article. As well as the generosity to all the charities throughout the year that we helped and contributed to. It makes me PROUD to

be a 584 member and the President of this Local!

I will end off with the celebrations of the milestone of 70 years of perseverance that Local 584 has represented its members and the 50 years here at this depot location. To all the members present and that came before us and their contribution to our locals strength and success.

Well done Local 584!

I am up for the challenges of 2015; one of the main priorities coming out of Auto Council is the upcoming Federal election possible as early as the spring. We have our work cut out for us Brothers and Sisters with Harper's views on the progress and success of Canada and Unions are not part of it! We will need to all take part in the goal to inform and educate on the election Party platforms and agendas of this election. I look forward to having these discussions with you.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

In solidarity,  
Sister Barb Morrison.

### Michelle Hilts - Recording Secretary

I was approached by a co-worker who asked me what I actually did for the union. They knew I was elected as the recording secretary but unaware of my job tasks, because I take great pride of my title I was more than happy to answer.

I would like to take this opportunity and explain the responsibilities of my position in the union as a Recording Secretary.

I am in charge of all correspondence relating to our local, and any other news and information relating to our Union as a whole. My duties and responsibilities are listed as follows:

Call Letter: which pertains to meetings, schooling or events for our

members.

Thank You Letter: thanking our local for lending a hand at a fundraiser and/or giving a donation.

Financial Appeal: would be either a letter asking for a donation or a member of our local asking for financial assistance to put towards an event.

Letter of Information: containing information that either affects our local, unifor union or listing up coming events.

- Recording Minutes and Attendance at all Executive and General Membership meetings.

- Creating and generating reports for all motions brought

forward along with results of the general consensus.

- Summarizing all reports brought forward by individual members which are presented at the following Executive and General Membership meeting.

- Monthly minutes are always available to any member of our local per my reports.

This has been a challenging and rewarding position for me. I appreciate everyone's support at Local 584 and would like to say a HUGE thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Michelle Hilts



## HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Thayne Smith

### Home Fire Safety Tips for the Holidays

Here are some seasonal home fire safety tips:

#### 1. Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Make sure you have them and that they're working.

#### 2. Light up the night without igniting the lights

- Purchase extension cords for the specific job – don't improvise with an indoor cord outdoors, or daisy chain several shorter cords instead of just getting a longer one.

- As with extension cords, indoor-rated light strings and pre-lit trees are for indoor use only. Products marked for indoor use are not designed to hold up against the elements. However it is safe though to use outdoor extension cords and light strings indoors.

- It is not a good idea to connect different types of light strings together. For example, don't plug in a new LED string to your old incandescent light string.

- Do not run extension cords under carpets, out windows or doorways where they could become pinched.

- Inspect light strings/set and extension cords before use, and discard any that show signs of wear or damage.

- Insert plugs fully into outlets. Poor contact may cause overheating or shock.

- If using candles, burn them in

proper holders, on sturdy surfaces away from children and pets. Put out candles before leaving the room or going to sleep.

- Do not overload electrical outlets.

#### 3. Staying warm

- If you must use a space heater, plug it directly into a wall outlet, not into an extension cord or power bar. Give it lots of room -- at least 1 m (3 feet) of space on all sides, and turn it off before leaving the room or going to sleep.

- Consider replacing old space heaters with newer models that turn off automatically when tipped or overheating.

- Use a barrier to keep children and pets away from gas or wood burning fireplaces when they are in use.

- Never burn gift wrappings, boxes, cartons, or other types of packing in the fireplace.

#### 4. Cooking safe

- Don't leave grilling, frying or broiling unattended.

- Keep cooking surfaces clutter-free

- Order in if intoxicated.

#### 5. The Tree

- Real or fake, the good news is Christmas trees rarely catch fire. Nevertheless, if using a real one, make sure to keep it well-watered and away from sources of heat. Never use candles on or near the tree.

What are some tips if I use a ladder?

Always use a ladder when hanging decorations on the tree, walls or when outside.

Stepladders should be about 1 m (3 ft) shorter than the highest point you have to reach. This height gives a wider, more stable base.

Open the stepladder spreaders and shelf fully.

Check stability. Make sure that all of the ladder's feet are on a firm, level and non-slippery surface.

On portable ladders, maintain three-point contact by keeping two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder at all times.

Do not overreach. Climb down and move the ladder when needed.

Do not "shift" or "walk" a ladder when standing on it.

Do not stand, climb, or sit on the stepladder top or pail shelf.

Place the ladder feet 1/4 of the ladder's working length (e.g., foot to top support point) away from the base of the structure (e.g., for every 1.2 m (4 ft) high, the base of the ladder should be out 0.3 m (1 ft); that means one horizontal foot from the support point).

Extend the ladder at least 1 m (3 ft) above the landing platform.

Place the ladder on a firm, level footing. Use a ladder with slip-resistant feet or secure blocking.

Brace or tie the bottom of the ladder.

Rest both side rails on the top support and secure ladder to prevent slipping.

Have a Healthy, Safe and Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Thayne and Greg



## BENEFITS REPORT Michelle Harvey

Congratulations to Randy Ashton on his retirement May 1, 2014

### Out of Province Coverage

When travelling outside of Ontario, it is very important to have your Provincial Health and Green Shield Cards with you in case of a medical emergency.

The emergency phone numbers are on the back of your Green Shield card.

**North America - 1-800-936-6226**

**Outside North America – 0-519-742-3556 (Call Collect)**

Travel Assistance is available 24/7 including holidays.

You can also call this number prior to leaving on your trip for pre-trip assistance.

### Mental Health First Aid

Just like first aid given to someone who is injured; there is also first aid for helping a person who is developing a mental health problem or who is having a mental health

crisis.

In Canada, one out of five people will experience some problem with their mental health in the course of a year and one out of three will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lifetime.

You can help someone with five basic actions:

- Assess the risk of harm and/or suicide.
- Listen non-judgmentally.
- Give reassurance and information.
- Encourage the person to get appropriate professional help.
- Encourage other supports.

When someone is in need, think of ALGEE!!

Employment Equity: Diversity and Inclusion

Everyone has preconceived notions, bias and beliefs about other people's

differences based on their personal experiences and upbringing.

Diversity is about the individual. It is about the variety of unique dimensions, qualities, and characteristics we all possess.

Inclusion is about the collective. It is about creating a culture that strives for equity and embraces, respects, accepts, and values differences.

Together the concept of Diversity and Inclusion is about capturing the uniqueness of the individual, creating an environment that values and respects individuals for their talents, skills and abilities to the benefit of everyone. It also breaks down barriers and shows empathy towards others.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Christmas and Holiday season.

## Retirement Security for Everyone!

We need to do something about retirement income, and we need to do it now. People cannot save enough for retirement and we are going to see growing poverty among retired seniors. Even bank economists have started to say RRSPs have failed. There's too much risk and not enough security to ensure that, after a lifetime of work, people can retire and live out their last years in dignity.

Too many of today's seniors live in poverty and too many older workers are realizing their retirement plans have come up short because the investment returns they were promised never materialized or they simply could not save enough on their own. Young people are graduating with high levels of student debt and going into jobs where workplace pension plans aren't being offered. The financial services industry pays itself juicy fees to manage your money and that

eats up a big part of your potential retirement savings - if you have any retirement savings left when you are ready to retire, after the roller coaster dips and dives of the stock market.

The best way to help today's workers save enough money for tomorrow is by having Canadians get more of their retirement income from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). The CPP covers over 90% of Canadians with jobs - almost the entire work force. The CPP follows you from job to job across all the provinces and territories, and it keeps up with the cost of living. Your benefits are paid out right up until your death. Even self-employed people can get CPP. It's a defined benefit so you know what you will get when you retire, no guesswork or worrying about the performance of the stock market.

The CPP is financed exclusively by workers and their employers, not by taxes, and it is run independently from the government. This means seniors in the future won't have to depend on government tax revenues or their company's stability to pay for their pension. Best of all, the CPP's management costs are vastly lower than those charged by the banking and mutual fund industries.

Expanding the CPP would mean Canadians would have safer pensions. They would not have to worry about losing their pension savings to higher inflation, stock market scams, or because they lose their jobs. Expanding the CPP is about preparing for our future, and leaving behind a better system for our kids. Canada's financial sector charges some of the highest fees in the world. Why give your savings to them?



## RETIREE'S CHAIR REPORT

### Chris Wilski

2014 is fast coming to a close and it was an interesting year that seemed to go by in a flash.

Our Condolences go out to Frank Marek and family on the loss of his wife Eileen who passed away November 19, 2014. We also lost the following retiree in 2014: John Frankland January 23, Bob Evans Feb 28, John Stone April 2, Bill Pooley July 2nd & Ed Cade Dec 7th.

I have listed some key dates and functions that our Retirees have participated in over the past year:

Momentum Credit Union Strike Feb 18 - March 25, 2014 - supported them on the picket lines in both Brampton and Oakville.

Retirees Spring Luncheon was held at the Mandarin on June 4, 2014

Beamsville constituency office on

June 9, 2014 protesting Tim Hudak

Retirees volunteered at the Knights Table June 13, 2014

Unifor retirees resolutions committee meetings in London July 14 & 15, 2014

Retirees Conference in Port Elgin including the Labour Day parade August 30 to September 6, 2014

Jerry Diaz Unifor President was our Guest speaker at our October 1, 2014 Retirees Meeting which had a great turn out.

Our Annual Thanksgiving luncheon food drive took place on October 10, 2104 and was a great success, the retirees along with the warehouse collected close to a ton of food which was all donated to the Knights Table. Thanks to Local 584 and FDS brokers for their support.

November 6, 2014 Doug Berry, Roz Monchamp and I attended a day of action in London in support of Health Care workers across this province.

November 21st Doug Berry attended Queens Park Health Care Rally along with members of local 584.

Dec 3, 2014 was our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Mandarin. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday April 1, 2015 at the Canadian Legion, Mary Street at 1 pm.

Please sign up for email updates at [retirees@cawlocal584.com](mailto:retirees@cawlocal584.com) and see us live at [www.cawlocal584.com](http://www.cawlocal584.com) Our website is updated daily.

To all our retirees and active members and their families please have a safe winter, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Retiree Group Picture



## Human Rights Report Lisa Bogden

### Gender Gouging...the battle of price wars

With the Holiday season fast approaching, keep this in mind!! If your a woman you may be green with jealousy or seeing red!! (get it...green and red) anyway.....

Woman often pay more for the same products then men do, this practice is called "Gender Pricing".

CBC's Marketplace tested three of Canada's largest retailers- Walmart, Target and Hudson's Bay. They found that similar products for men and women were not always the same price. such as an anti-wrinkle cream for men cost \$8.99 while the women's version from the same company cost a whopping \$22.99. Women's deodorant was \$2.89 mens \$2.78, and women's shaving cream cost \$4.07 and mens cost \$3.39. In some cases, women got much less product than men did. And the gender gap starts early, Marketplace also found significant differences in some children's products which have items for girls priced higher than

similar ones for boys. A written statement from these 3 companies says that price gaps reflect differneces in packaging, manufacturing costs or ingredients and are not gender based...and we know these companies wouldnt lie.....

New York City has outlawed pricing discrimination based on gender. Julie Menin, a commisioner of the New York Department of Consumer affairs has found three main types of services to see the most violations, which are hair salons, nail salons and dry cleaners. Bussiness in New York are allowed to charge more if something requires more labour, but cannot charge based on Gender alone. If caught violating these laws, they can face fines ranging from \$50-\$500. The consumer is very happy about this law, they feel items are being priced fairly and is protecting consumer's rights. California passed similar legislation in 1996. Canada has NO laws to prohibit this practice.

Canada is slow in the race. In 2005, Ontario Liberal MPP Lorenzo Berardinetti introduced a bill to prohibit price discrimination on the basis of gender. "In order to create a society where people are judged by the content of their character rather than their physical characteristics, practices such as these must be eliminated." the bill stated... the bill was refered to the standing committee on social policy, but did not become law! The Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and the Retail Council of Canada declined to speak with Marketplace about their investigation...thats strange... To see more on his issue, you can YouTube "Who pays more:men or women? Gender pricing"

Merry Christmas  
Joyeux Noel  
Happy Hanukkah  
Have a safe and wonderful Holiday  
In Solidarity  
Humans Rights Chair

## Education Report Mark Machado

The Spring schedule for P.E.L. and Health and Safety Fund courses at Port Elgin is now available. The courses offered cover a wide range of subjects of interest. If you have never had the opportunity to attend a course at our facility in Port Elgin, I highly recommend it. There is always great new people to meet as well as new skills to develop. Members who have already attended courses there know what a great experience it is and are always looking to return. Take a look at the schedule and please see me for an application if there is a course that interests you. For members who would find it

difficult to be away on a course for a week but would still be interested in some type of labour related education, there are other options. With enough member interest, I would be able to organize a one day course that typically takes place locally on Saturdays. Visit the Unifor website for a complete list of courses which range from Collective Bargaining to Finding Your Voice- Public Speaking. I would also be able to supply you with a list and course descriptions.

Another option for members would be to take courses that are offered jointly by Unifor and McMaster

University. Unifor members have the option to take these courses and work towards a certificate in labour studies. These courses are also free of charge to our members and are fairly flexible in scheduling. Completion of this certificate can be used as a step towards a university degree. If you are interested in any of these education options please see me with any questions you might have and I can help get you started.

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Mark Machado

## Financial Secretary Report Arvin Gangwar

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
For over a decade (Since 1999), I have had the honour of serving as your Financial Secretary/ Treasurer and helping lots of members in their tax preparation also. Frequently, I get questions about the new tax changes or matters which affect most families. So now on, I have decided to cover some important or most popular topic in every Partsline issue. In this issue, I will write about the tax changes which will take place in 2015 for 2014 tax year, and were recently announced in the fall fiscal budget. Please make note that this is for information only. Some or most of these proposed changes may not apply to your personal situation.

1. **INCOME SPLITTING :**  
Pensioners have been enjoying the income splitting since 2007. It's a new federal Non-Refundable Credit worth up to \$2,000 for couples with children under 18. It's calculated as the tax savings a couple could realize on the transfer of up to \$50,000 of income from one spouse/partner to the other and capped at a maximum benefit of \$2,000.

2. **CHILD CARE EXPENSES:**  
New proposal will increase the amounts to \$8,000 from \$7,000 per child under age seven, and to \$5,000 from 4,000 for each child aged 7 through 16. Basically it has been increased by \$1,000 in each category including the children who are eligible for Disability Tax Credit.

3. **ENHANCED UNIVERSAL CHILD CARE BENEFIT:**  
This monthly, taxable benefit rises to \$160 per month for children under the age of 6. In addition, a new benefit of \$60 per month for children aged 6 through 17 is added, both effective Jan 1, 2015. Families affected with this change will receive a cheque for \$360 next July. But, the enhanced UCCB will REPLACE the existing Child Tax Credit which is based on \$2255 per child at the 15% credit rate or \$338 per child. So there is little gain, not as much as it looks at the first look.

4. **CHILDREN'S FITNESS TAX CREDIT:**  
The Current limit of \$500 per child will increase to \$1,000. And the most important part is that effective next year, this credit will be a Refundable Tax Credit. Currently, it's a Non-Refundable tax credit.

5. **TAX FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNT :**  
This is the most confused and misunderstood savings program among Canadians. Every year, thousands of Canadians get penalized for over contribution because they misunderstand the withdrawal and re-contribution rule. Rule of thumb is, if you withdraw from your TFSA, and you are already maxed out your contribution room, then you can not re-invest it in the same year. You have to wait till the new calendar year to regain that contribution room. But if you just want to transfer it from one institution to another, then it is

allowed. You can have multiple accounts at different institutions though, as long as your total is within your contribution limit for the year, on accumulated basis. A number of Canadians think that it's a savings account which can only be opened at the banks or Credit Unions and usually they open their accounts there and leave it in either cash investment or some low yielding instruments. If you are earning less than 3% on your TFSA account, then you are not even keeping up with the inflation index in Canada. You might as well either pay off your mortgage or any other debt you might have. You can hold Cash, Bonds, Stocks, Gold, Silver, Mortgages etc. in your TFSA accounts now.

The current TFSA limit is \$5,500 per year. So for 2014, if you have not contributed yet, the limit is \$31,000 and in 4 more weeks, it will be \$36,500 for 2015. There is a proposal to increase it to \$10,000 per year to the Government but it has not been passed yet.

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS:** Make sure to donate to your choice of charity by Dec 31, 2014 to be able to claim it in next year's taxes. 'Tis the Season of Giving and Sharing.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and Safe and healthy holidays.  
Arvin Gangwar  
financial@unifor584.org



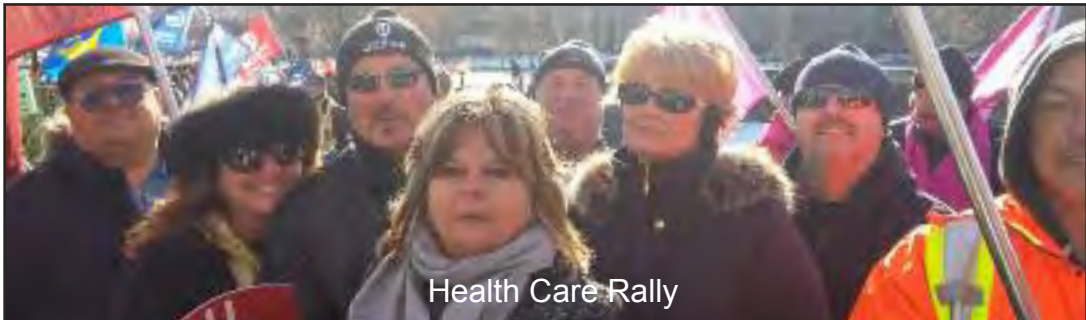




November 2014



Labour Day



Health Care Rally

## Canadian Doctor's Perfect Response to Employers Who Require Doctor's Notes for Sick Days

Some companies in Canada require their employees to get a note from their doctor when they take time off work for health reasons. This is obviously extremely annoying to those who have to go to the doctor instead of simply recuperating at home, but, as it turns out, it really bugs doctors, too.

Date: Oct 16/14

Dear Employer:

An employee of your company visited my office/emergency room for the purpose of obtaining a medical note to satisfy your company's absenteeism policy. This request is a non-insured service, not funded by Medical Services Insurance.

As a business operator in Nova Scotia, I am asking for your support in helping to alleviate an unnecessary pressure on the health-care system. I am hoping you will consider revisiting your current absenteeism policy and remove the requirement for your employees to obtain a medical note for missed time from work.

This policy creates an unnecessary burden on the health-care system and also exposes seriously ill patients in my office to viruses that could cause detrimental consequences to their health. In most cases, the best remedy for a patient with an isolated illness (i.e., gastrointestinal virus or common cold) is to stay home, rest and drink fluids. Coming to a doctor's office or an emergency room for a medical note does not complement their recovery.

If, for whatever reason, your business decides to continue to require a physician to authorize their employees' absenteeism, I will require your employee to bring with them a written request from the organization for the medical note. Upon providing the service I will invoice your company \$20.00 per medical note. This is a standard practice when providing non-medical necessary services for third-party organizations.

As Canadians we are lucky to have our health-care system, but the ability to access its services in a timely fashion is a growing problem. Health-care providers, business operators, governments and individuals all have a role to play to ensure its sustainability. I hope your business will consider changing your current absenteeism policy and therefore contribute to reducing the unnecessary burden on our health-care system and improve access for other Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

### Dec 6, 2014 Violence Against Women GAGE PARK BRAMPTON

On December 6 1989, 14 engineering students at L' École Polytechnique were singled out and murdered, solely because of their gender. Now known as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, this December 6 marked the 25th anniversary of that horrific day, and though much has changed, violence against women still permeates our society. 14 MEN REPRESENTED THE 14 WOMEN





## Health Care Crisis

Reprinted From Toronto Star - Bob Hepburn Politics, Published on Wed Nov 19 2014

In an upbeat speech to more than 1,000 Ontario nurses, Health Minister Eric Hoskins boasted Wednesday about how home and community care are “the cornerstones” of a major health-system transformation underway in the province.

Cheerfully, Hoskins told delegates at the Ontario Nurses’ Association annual convention that one of his top priorities is to redesign home and community care, with better co-ordination of services through local Community Care Access Centres.

His remarks, though, were greeted with more than a few groans from delegates at the back of the room.

That’s because the nurses are furious with a fresh wave of cuts in home- and community-care services by CCACs, which govern such services across Ontario, that are affecting thousands of sick and elderly patients.

It’s a disturbing trend Hoskins avoided mentioning in his speech.

Indeed, Hoskins refuses even to concede that anyone has been affected by the cuts, despite such papers as the Windsor Star and Ottawa Sun publishing detailed articles about how patients suffering from strokes, multiple sclerosis and cancer have seen their services cut off.

Show me the examples of where patient care is suffering, Hoskins said in an interview after his speech.

Well, one person who could show Hoskins some examples is the woman who — ironically — formally introduced the minister at Wednesday’s speech.

“Appalled. Disgusted. Horrified.”

Those strong words are used by Linda Haslam-Stroud, president of the nurses’ association, to describe how Windsor-area health-care professionals feel about a controversial decision to slash daily nursing home-care services by 33 per cent.

“Care co-ordinators — registered nurses and allied health professionals tasked with assessing patients and developing care plans — know that cutting this much home care will result in a great deal of patient suffering,” she wrote in a letter to the editor of the Windsor Star that appeared on Tuesday, just one day before she introduced Hoskins to convention delegates.

Haslam-Stroud wrote the letter in response to a decision by the Erie-St. Clair CCAC to cut off services for “mild-needs” patients in the face of a \$5-million deficit.

Windsor is not the only area to see CCAC cuts.

In the Ottawa region, the local CCAC is slashing services for many seniors even while the demand for service is increasing. The moves are resulting in some health-care workers losing their jobs.

In the Greater Toronto Area, some private service providers contracted by CCACs to actually deliver care to patients have reduced working hours for some employees because of a drop in patient referrals from CCAC care co-ordinators.

In Windsor, CCAC bosses are telling patients they can find alternative services, such as help getting dressed, washed or getting their wounds treated, through agencies like the Alzheimer Society or the Victorian Order of Nurses. These agencies have all said they are already at capacity and would need more money to add extra patients.

Patients are also told they need to start paying their own money for private care.

Interestingly, at the same time that patient services are being cut, wages for the top employees at Erie-St. Clair CCAC are rising. Over the past five years, the number of employees earning over \$100,000 a year more than doubled, to 21 from just nine. At

the same time, the salary for the chief executive officer position jumped 37 per cent, to \$220,000 from \$160,000 a year.

Hoskins is either unaware of these trends or has decided to keep quiet about possible steps in the coming months to radically restructure the CCACs and the entire home-care system. An expert panel appointed by the government earlier this year to make recommendations for home-care reform is to present its report in January or February.

Admittedly, Hoskins was confronted with a health-care system already in crisis when he was appointed health minister in June. Tens of thousands of patients, most notably those needing rehab therapy, were already deeply affected.

That’s because the Liberal government had been pressuring hospitals to discharge patients quickly in order to save money. But the government failed to provide enough money for the home-care sector, leaving patients with empty promises of at-home or community services that ultimately amounted to only a few home visits or none at all.

Regrettably, under Hoskins’ watch, that trend is continuing — and indeed may be escalating.

As Haslam-Stroud said in her letter to the editor, care co-ordinators “are being forced to cut home care that provides the vital care, with dignity and safety, that patients deserve.”

Is this the legacy Hoskins wants to leave as health minister?

Is this the legacy Ontarians deserve?



# Recreation Report

Sandy Pitman

The Recreation Committee would like to apologize that there will NOT be a Christmas Dance this year.

The last draw of this year will be held Monday December 15, 15, 2014.

There will be prizes and money drawn.

The Recreation Committee will be placing a suggestion box in the warehouse café. If anyone would like to make a suggestion on anything new they would like to see and do. Please fill free to drop your suggestion in the box. NO NAMES needed on your suggestion.

The box will be checked once a week.

The Recreation Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New year to you and your families.

In Solidarity

Sandy Pitman

RECREATION CHAIRPERSON

AIR BAG	CLUTCH	GAS TANK	STARTER
AIR CONDITIONER	COOLING FAN	HEADLIGHT	STEERING WHEEL
ALTERNATOR	CRANKCASE	HOOD	SUSPENSION
AXLE	CRUISE CONTROL	HORN	TAIL LIGHT
BATTERY	DEFOGGER	IGNITION	TIRES
BODY	DEFROSTER	MUFFLER	TRANSMISSION
BRAKE	DOOR	POWER WINDOW	TRUNK
BUMPER	DRIVE LINE	RADIATOR	TURN SIGNAL
CAR SEAT	DRIVESHAFT	RADIO	WHEEL RIM
CARBURETOR	ENGINE	REAR VIEW MIRROR	WHEELS
CARRIER RACK	FRAME	ROOF	WINDSHIELD
CHILD SEAT	FUSE	SEAT BELT	

M S B E A R T T C H I L D S E A T B Y  
I E A R R A O R R O T A I D A R P I D  
R C T E E D S R A T S D I R F O R G O  
L A T L N I L U R N R E E R W O O N B  
E R E F O O N U S I S P A E B F O I C  
E R R F I T N A V P M M R T L A D T A  
H I Y U T K H E F U E W I E B L G I R  
W E L M I S L G B G I N E S E E T O B  
W R A T D I T A I N N H S I S R L N U  
N R N A N E I A D L W I H I V I B T R  
R A G E O N F O R G D S L H O R O N E  
E C I S C G W U N T D A O O A N A N T  
T K S R R I G I S N E O E K O X R E O  
S H N A I N R L I E D R E H L C L O R  
O C R C A E E W T F A H S E V I R D H  
R T U I E E C R U I S E C O N T R O L  
F U T T H G I L L I A T G A S T A N K  
E L S W G H C R A N K C A S E R I T T  
D C A L T E R N A T O R E G G O F E D