



The UNION ECHO

Serving the workers of Northern and North-western Ontario



Volume 28 Issue 1

Unity and Strength for workers

Summer 2026



PRESIDENT'S CORNER INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF STEEL CONFERENCE TRAINING AND NEGOTIATIONS

Since the last Union Echo, the Local has been dealing with many negotiations, grievances, arbitrations, and meetings. Since January, it's been one negotiation after the other, and most of my time has been spent in negotiation. Take the time to read our Local's representatives reports.

From March 30th to April 2nd, three Sisters from our Local attended the USW International Women of Steel Conference in Toronto. April Chernosky (Gateway Casino Thunder Bay), Naomi Nowlan

(Hearst Farmers Coop), the unforgettable Annette Matte (GreenFirst Hearst sawmill), and myself did attend the Conference. All three Sisters said that they really enjoyed the time spent at the Conference. See each of their reports on the next page.

On April 17th, five of our members, namely Brothers Norm Hachez, Pierre Tremblay, Dany Aubin, Dave Haney and Jarred Miller-Cogger participated in a study on forestry workers, how they see their job and connection

with forestry. Thank you very much Brothers for agreeing to participate.

From May 12th to May 15th, ten of our Local's stewards attended our Steward Training in Thunder Bay. Sister April Chernosky was the Sister responsible in delivering the training. The Stewards who attended the training are Sister Michelle Gaudreault (Maison Renaissance), Brothers Derek Pelletier (Hornepayne Lumber), Justin Olson (Kiezebrink Contracting), Jamie Maclsaac (Dallan

Forestry LP), Cody Kresack (Dallan Fort William), Mathieu Maltais (The Wood), Paul Lychowyd (Renewable Forest Products), Jason Placken (Unitized Manufacturing), Ben Pamplin (Kirkland Lake Forest Products) and Tony Coolen (Shuniah Forest Products).

Have a great summer, enjoy your holidays with your family and friends and be safe at all times.

In Solidarity;
Jacques Jean

USW International Women of Steel Conference March 30th to April 2nd, 2026, Toronto



Delegates at the USW International Women of Steel Conference: Annette Matte, Naomi Nowlan, Jacques Jean and April Chernosky



Members of Local 1-2010's Women's Committee, Annette Matte, Naomi Nowlan and April Chernosky

Stewards Training May 12th to 15th, 2026 Thunder Bay



Cody Kresack, Derek Pelletier, Mathieu Maltais, Michelle Gaudreault, Ben Pamplin, Jamie Maclsaac, Paul Lychowyd, Jason Placken, Justin Olson and Tony Coolen.



Reports from the Local 1-2010 Women's Committee members who attended the Women of Steel Conference in Toronto

From March 30th to April 2nd, 2026, I was lucky enough to be able to attend the International Women of Steel Conference that was held in Toronto. It was four amazing days of solidarity amongst Sisters, support, learning, and information.

While we were there, I was lucky enough to attend a few very interesting workshops. The first workshop I had chosen was called. "Know your voice". It was a very interesting workshop with

activities to help learn about and increase confidence in public speaking.

I also attended the "make sh#t better workshop" which is a very informative and engaging workshop on washroom dignity. So many workplaces do not have proper washroom facilities for our Sisters and it helped cover different ways and ideas of how to advocate for those very basic needs in the workplace.

The union meeting was an informative and engaging experience that provided valuable insights into workers' and women's rights. Participants had the opportunity to learn through discussions, examples, and shared experiences.

- The meeting was a positive and enriching experience overall.
- I learned a great deal through the different discussions and activities presented during the session.
- It was interesting to understand how far individuals

and groups are willing to go in order to fight for what they believe in, especially regarding women's rights.

- The meeting highlighted the importance of making efforts to ensure one's voice is heard and respected.
- It was also insightful to learn that women's rights in Canada are more advanced compared to some other countries, although there is still progress to be made.
- The discussions emphasized that everyone deserves to have their rights protected and respected in the workplace and in society.

I had an amazing time at the International Women of Steel Conference in Toronto. I was surrounded by so many amazing women and learned so many new things. I enjoyed especially learning about politics and discussing the terrible things happening across the border. The stories and testimonies of my fellow Sisters were sad to hear as well.

Seeing Guy Bourguin in action at the pink palace really

struck a chord in me. The passion that the NDP has for the people is amazing. I'd like to make changes like that someday.

Roxanne Brown, our new USW international president, is truly an amazing person. Her kindness and compassion are truly inspiring.

Let's keep doing epic shit!!

In Solidarity;
Naomi Nowlan

The third workshop that I attended was "Local union communication resources". This workshop was set up to demonstrate all of the different things that USW has set up that can be used by different Locals to assist them in creating and running their websites, sending out mass text messages, etc. and was actually quite interesting.

On Wednesday we were also very lucky to be invited to be guests at Queens Park by

MPP Guy Bourguin. It was an amazing experience and one that we were very lucky to have.

Overall, it was a busy and very interesting and fun week full of learning experiences and solidarity between Sisters from across both Canada and internationally.

In Solidarity;
April Chernosky

I would like to sincerely thank Jacques Jean and April Chernosky for guiding me throughout this experience. Their support and encouragement were greatly appreciated.

It was a pleasure and an honour to attend this activity on behalf of Canadian women. This experience strengthened my understanding of the importance of solidarity, advocacy, and equal rights for everyone.

I believe this type of experience and educational

activity should continue to take place at least once every five years in order to follow the evolution of women's rights and continue promoting awareness, equality, and progress within society and the workplace.

The union meeting increased awareness about equality, rights, and the importance of collective action. It encouraged participants to continue supporting fairness, inclusion, and respect for all workers.

In Solidarity;
Annette Matte

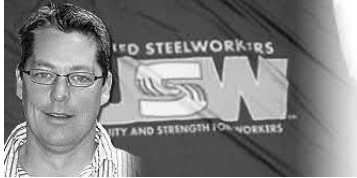


Scholarships offered by our Local: 2 x \$1,000.00

Eligible: Children of our members enrolling in post secondary education

Deadline: July 1st, 2026

Application form: www.uswlocal1-2010.ca or contact us



ONE NEW AGREEMENT AND OTHER ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS INTERFOR GOGAMA CLOSURE

Brothers and Sisters. It has been a very busy winter with the day-to-day business, arbitrations, and ongoing negotiations.

Rockshield EWP - Cochrane

There are no positive signs for the members who were working at the Rockshield EWP plywood plant in Cochrane and who have been laid off since March of 2025. Unfortunately, there's no sign of a restart for the near future. The mill is still damaged from the March 2025 fire and no construction is ongoing to fix the damaged area. At least 125 members have elected to take their severance pay out of the 150 members that were working at the plant.

Kap Paper Mill - Kapuskasing

Since last September's announcement on the idling of the Kap Paper mill, there has been ongoing development. The mill is operating and with the unfortunate mill closures elsewhere, the Kap Paper

operation has been provided an opportunity to increase its tonnage for North American customers. The company continues working on a project to develop a MDF plant with the support of investors, stakeholders and from both the Provincial and Federal governments. With the Collective Agreement up for renewal, we met with the company during the week of April 27th to negotiate a new agreement. At the time of writing this report no agreement has been finalized. We have more dates of negotiations coming up later this summer. We'll update you folks in our next edition of the Echo on these negotiations.

Centre de Santé du Grand Sudbury

On February 12th, 2026, our members from the Centre de Santé du Grand Sudbury ratified a new 3-year Collective Agreement at 69%. This new agreement offers a 9% wage increase over the term of the agreement, increases in

vacation entitlement for members with more than 15 and 20 years of service, an increase for paid sick leave, and reimbursement for doctor's notes.

Interfor Gogama Sawmill

On April 14th, 2026, in preparation for the upcoming negotiations, we met with the members working at the Interfor Gogama sawmill to take their demands for the renewal of their Collective Agreement that expired on March 31st, 2026. On April 21st, 2026, the company announced that the mill was shutting down it's operations in Gogama indefinitely due to the slow markets. This announcement lays off some 40 members.

Interfor Timmins Sawmill

From December 1st to 5th, 2025, March 9th to 12th, 2026, and again from April 20th to 22nd, 2026, we've met with the company in negotiations to try to get a fair agreement for our members working at the

Timmins Interfor sawmill. Unfortunately, we've been unable to come to an agreement, and the Local will be applying for conciliation.

GreenFirst Forest Products - Cochrane Sawmill

Negotiations have been ongoing since last November. We've met with the company from November 17th to 19th, 2025, and then again from March 24th to 26th, 2026. During our March 24th to 26th meeting, the company gave us a last offer. The final offer was presented to our members on Sunday May 3rd, 2026. The membership rejected the employer's final offer at 95%. We will be applying for mediation.

Wishing everyone a beautiful summer. Be kind to one another. Stay safe.

In Solidarity;
Eric Carroll

Health & Safety

During the week of May 18th to May 22nd, 2026, Brother Duncan Tronrud (Ricci's trucking in Thunder Bay), Sister Stephanie Roy (Canadian Blood Services in Sudbury), Brother Jacques Jean (Local President) and myself attended the United Steelworkers International Health, Safety and Environment Conference in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Our two delegates enjoyed the conference and appreciated the opportunity to attend. They will be reporting on the Conference at our next Local Health and Safety meeting which will take place later this

coming fall in Thunder Bay. Co-Chairs will be receiving the invitation sometime in late summer.

Brothers and Sisters, remember, working safely is our right and our obligation. Don't turn a blind eye. Protect one another. If you see a co-worker working in an unsafe manner, inform them of the situation.

Make Health and Safety your priority.

In Solidarity.
Eric Carroll
Health & Safety Director



Delegates at the USW International Health, Safety and Environment Conference: Jacques Jean (Local 1-2010 President), Duncan Tronrud (Ricci's Trucking), Stephanie Roy (Canadian Blood Services) and Eric Carroll (Local 1-2010 1st Vice-President and Health & Safety Director).



CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR

Hello Brothers and Sisters!

The forestry sector in Canada continues to be under unfair counter-vailing duties and a tariff from the American government. This amounts to 45% at the time of me writing this report. It's completely unfair that Canadian producers are forced to operate under these conditions. All this does is raise the cost of the average American new build home, to just over \$17,000, again as of the time I am writing this report. Obviously, new home builds in the US have been fairly stagnant, creating less demand for Canadian lumber. This situation will not change until Canada has a new softwood lumber deal in place with the US. Your Local has been diligent in lobbying local, provincial and federal leadership, to make getting a new softwood lumber deal a priority. It is just as important as any of the other sectors such as the steel industry and auto manufacturing just to name a few examples, under similar duties and tariffs. Hopefully this changes sooner, rather than later.

Domtar Atikokan Sawmill

It has been business as usual at the sawmill in Sapawe. The company has been looking to expand into specialty markets. The reason for this is to try and get additional and or more sales in Canada to avoid the duties and tariffs. I would expect other sawmills in Canada will be doing the same to offset the current climate of the industry. Neil Richard, the steward at the Atikokan Sawmill, has adjusted well as a new executive on the Local's Executive Board. Neil is now a

part of the decision making for the Local, and he has been a great addition. I will be scheduling the normal spring membership meeting for May to listen to any questions or concerns from the members. I will also be scheduling a labour management meeting soon with the company to discuss any concerns before they become major issues.

Domtar Ignace Sawmill

Very sad news to report on the Domtar Ignace Sawmill, the company has idled the mill indefinitely as of March 2026. The mill was already down to one shift as of January 2025. As well, the Local represents the contractor Dallan Forestry, which operates the heavy equipment outside of the sawmill and provides service to it. All of the members in the sawmill and at the Dallan operations outside are now out of a job. I held membership meetings for both units. At those meetings, I provided information on many job opportunities at other mills in our Local as well as information as to what Service Canada and employment insurance would be offering at upcoming meetings put on by both services. I attended those meetings to be there for the workers and provide support; it was the least that I could do. Hopefully if the market conditions improve and Canada can get a fair softwood lumber deal with the US, maybe at some point down the road things could change.

Dallan Atikokan & Dallan Ignace

The Dallan operations in Atikokan have continued to be

a busy operation. The sawmill did not end up adding a fourth shift. This no doubt would have ended up requiring additional Dallan operators, but market conditions have prevented that happening for now. A new steward has been elected at the Dallan Atikokan operation, Liam Wilson. Thanks for stepping up Liam to support your co-workers! We will be holding a membership meeting for Dallan Atikokan in May to give the folks an opportunity to bring forward any questions or concerns.

As I mentioned earlier in my report, the Dallan Ignace operations have ceased due to the permanent idling of the Domtar Ignace sawmill. Sad times, indeed. I held a membership meeting for the group there and the Dallan operators in Ignace were also offered job opportunities at other mills in the Local as well as info for Service Canada and employment insurance information sessions. Hopefully things change in the future.

Nakina Lumber Inc

Nakina Lumber is still producing at a high level and trying to manage the challenges that the forestry sector faces. As I reported previously, there have been some issues with the on-site camp, but those issues have been getting better. On another note, the JHSC has had some troubles in the past, but the union and the company have been working together to try and improve things. I plan on having a membership meeting in May for the group. Candace Koenders, the women's committee

representative for the site, will be attending her first women's committee meeting that the Local holds annually. Cody Kostelecky, the steward for the site, will have the opportunity to attend the annual stewards meeting that the Local holds. The Local offers training and resources for the stewards at the annual meeting.

Gateway Casino

Gateway Casino Thunder Bay is a very busy unit, as usual. Our members provide great service to the customers of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. There is usually a lot of offerings for the customers whether it's food promos, giveaways or special draws, there is always something going on there. Steward Shayne Savor and the grievance committee have been doing a great job representing the members. The membership has also been slowly growing there as well. I plan to have a membership meeting in May or June to listen to any member questions or concerns.

Well, we have had a long winter this year. I am sure everyone is looking forward to hot weather and fun times this summer. With that being said, if you are able, try to keep your travel dollars inside of Canada. There are so many great places to visit in Ontario and outside of our province. Please remember not to drink and drive, Take care everyone!

In Solidarity;
Wesley Ridler



NEGOTIATION, NEGOTIATION, NEGOTIATION

I would like to take this moment to wish everyone a happy and safe summer. Hopefully after this long winter of snow and cold we will be able to enjoy a nice summer with family and friends. Please remember to be careful and responsible while enjoying the summer activities.

White River Woodland

We were in negotiation with White River woodland on the 4th of November where the present agreement was extended for another 5 years.

GreenFirst Forest Products - Hearst Sawmill

We were in negotiation with the GreenFirst sawmill in Hearst from October 6th to 10th and November 12th where no agreement was reached. We held a membership meeting on the

14th of December where a strike vote was held on their final offer where it was rejected at 100%. At that moment, the company applied for conciliation. From that moment, other dates were scheduled for more negotiation that was held on the 25th of February where a final offer from the company was given to the employees. We held the vote on the 19th of April where it was rejected at 96%. We are waiting to see what will happen later in the negotiation. I will let you know more in the next Echo.

Lecours Lumber Woodland

We were in negotiation with Lecours Lumber Woodland on the 24th and from the 26th to 28th of November where no agreement was reached. At this point we are waiting for other dates for more

negotiation.

Columbia Forest Products - Shop

We held negotiations with Columbia Forest Products Shop from the 7th to 9th of April where no agreement was reached. At this point we did schedule other dates for more negotiations that will be held from June 8th to 10th, June 15th & 16th and also June 25th & 26th, 2026 where we hope to reach an agreement with the company.

Other Units

We have negotiations due with other units where dates have not been determined yet. Those units are Lecours Lumber Sawmill, GreenFirst Forest Products Hearst Woodland, Aramark, Columbia Forest products Woodland and La Maison Renaissance.

Training

We will again this year give some training to our members; we will hold a training for our new stewards from May 12th to 15th in Thunder Bay. We will also have the Women's Committee training in Thunder Bay from June 17th to 19th. As for the Health & Safety training it should be held from September 23rd to 25th, still needs to be confirmed. For the Stewards training it should be held from October 7th to 9th, still needs to be confirmed.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer vacation with your loved ones and friends.

In solidarity;
Guy Veilleux



CONTINUED RESILIENCE DURING SOFTWOOD LUMBER STORM

As we move forward from my October report, I want to provide an update on where things stand today and what lies ahead for several of our units. The past six months have continued to test our industry, but they have also demonstrated the resilience and strength of our membership. Over this reporting period, union activity focused on enforcing the collective agreement, addressing workplace safety issues, engaging members across multiple forestry operations, and maintaining labour-management dialogue

with employers operating in Northwestern Ontario.

In addition to day-to-day representation, the reporting period highlighted broader strategic challenges facing the forestry sector, including contractor use, hauling pressures, fibre supply concerns, and industry restructuring. These developments require continued vigilance to ensure the interests of Local 1-2010 members remain protected.

Wanson Lumber Inc. has now begun bargaining for the

renewal of their collective agreement. This will be an important round of negotiations, and we will be working hard to ensure our members there continue to move forward with a fair and strong agreement. I'd like to welcome Rene Legourrierec to the role of Steward.

Up North, The Wood and RPMG Harvesting have returned to the limits working in the Caribou Forest and are hauling out of the Graham as per the MoU Remote Agreement. This return to remote operations is a

testament to the determination and professionalism of our members who continue to keep the fibre moving in challenging conditions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new Stewards who have stepped up to represent their coworkers. From the hauling side, Mathieu Maltais will be serving as Steward, and from the harvesting operations, Serge Ringette has taken on that responsibility for The Wood operations. We also have a new Steward at Dallan FW, Cody Kresack has taken

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Zone 4: Martin Roy, Julie Larochelle
Zone 5: Roger Beland, Sergio Prazeres

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Jason Lacko... from page 5

over the reins. Stewards and JHSC members play a critical role in our union, and their leadership strengthens our presence on the ground every day.

Looking ahead, the next six months will be very active for bargaining across our Local. Dallan FW Sawmill will begin negotiations as their agreement expires on October 1st. In the current environment of tariffs, duties, and ongoing uncertainty surrounding forestry operations, I expect labour relations to be challenging. However, our strength has always been our unity and our preparedness.

The Domtar Thunder Bay Woodlands collective agreement will also expire in November. The Union expects to begin taking

bargaining demands early in September in preparation for negotiations. I strongly encourage all members to participate during membership meetings to ensure your voice is heard. Your input is essential in shaping the priorities we bring to the bargaining table.

Dallan LP Thunder Bay Pulp will also be paying close attention to any outcomes from the Dallan FW Sawmill negotiations, as they are scheduled to begin bargaining next April. What we achieve together today will help set the tone for the agreements that follow.

Brothers and Sisters, these continue to be uncertain times for the forestry sector, but our Local has proven time and time again that when we stand

together, support our Stewards, and stay engaged in our union, we are stronger than any challenge placed in front of us.

The work you do every day — in the bush, on the road, and in the mills — keeps this industry alive and our communities moving forward. Our union will continue to stand with you, advocate for you, and fight to protect the jobs and agreements that support our families and our future.

As we move into the months ahead, let's continue looking out for one another and keeping our workplaces safe.

Work Safe. Play Safe. Stay United and enjoy the summer!

In Solidarity; Jason Lacko

Use extra care this summer and avoid becoming an accident statistic

A few words to let you know that we are approaching a critical time of the year for work related accidents. The months of June, July, August and September are the months where we see a significant increase in work related accidents every year since quite a few years. This may be explained by the fact that there are a lot of people relieving on new jobs for those on vacation. Or, maybe because of mental fatigue at the approach of vacations. It may also be pure coincidence, but

whatever the cause, it is very important that we keep our focus during those four months, so that everyone may enjoy their vacations and keep all their body parts intact.

If everyone works at it, we will be successful in having zero accidents for those few months. One thing that we believe is very important to help in reaching this goal; when you have to work on a new job or assume new tasks, make sure to have adequate training and



know your SOP's and lockout procedures before starting the work. When in doubt, don't be afraid to ask your supervisor and/or co-workers for help. May you have a great summer and enjoy your vacations in a safe manner.



Wishing Everyone a Great Summer! Take care and work safe!