

May 24, 2010

April 26 – 29 was the 51<sup>st</sup> National Policy Conference which is held every three years. This year it was held in Toronto ON.

The entire executive of USW LU 2004 was in attendance and once again actively participated to this important event. This year the theme was “Building for tomorrow’s Jobs”.

Various resolutions are developed and voted upon by the delegates at the Conference. Those resolutions are a road map outlining the course of Political/Tactical actions and constitution amendments for the United Steelworkers National Office for the next three years.

Once again I am proud to announce that amongst others a resolution in support of lobbying the Government to make it illegal for employers to hire replacement workers when our members are on strike/lock out was presented to the 400 delegates and once again was supported unanimously!!!

A bill was then introduced at the Ontario Provincial Legislature by the NDP Provincial Ontario Party while the entire delegation walked down the street in support of the said legislation from the Toronto City Hall to the Ontario Provincial Legislature Building. The United Steel Workers have and continue to support such legislation. In 2007 in Ottawa a similar bill was introduced at the Federal Parliament level and unfortunately was defeated at the third reading by the Liberals and the Conservative Government. Similarly a USW National Policy Conference was taking place in Ottawa that year where once again the Steel workers demonstrated their resolve in the fact that we will never rest until such law is in place protecting all Canadian workers.

A Federal Anti-Scab Legislation is particularly important to the USW LU 2004. The USW and other Unions are constantly working to one day introduce such a law which evens out the playing field of labor unrest due to strikes. Without such law employers simply locks out its employees without suffering any production losses and often even hire at lower wages!!! In doing so forcing people to accept contract concessions which are clearly inferior to what they can really afford. Additionally statistics shows that without such legislation strikes have a tendency to last much longer as the employer does not have any incentive forcing them to negotiate in good faith.

Please call your MLA and tell them why you support a Federal Anti-Scab Law! If we don’t do it then WHO WILL!!!

Pierre Jacques