

Western Region News

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada
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Ed-Web fight Continues

Once again in Alberta the business community has signaled that it thinks it is open season on unions. Alberta law says that employers can't get rid of a union simply by changing their name or address, we'll have to wait and see if that law has any teeth.

Ed-Web is part of a larger printing conglomerate that includes Edmonton-based Central Web and Calgary Colour Press in Calgary. Ed-Web is best known for printing the popular Trader publications and the various renters' guides. The work done by CEP Local 255G members at Ed-Web has been transferred to a new press at the non-union Central Web plant.

Perhaps the employer thought that, because this group is fairly small no one would care. That isn't the case. Since Feb 20, 2006, CEP Locals throughout the region have been showing their support for the Ed-Web brothers and sisters that were fired on Alberta's "family day". Other unions in Alberta and the Alberta Federation of Labour have joined the fight.

"This was a huge shock to all of us," says local union President Ray Wade. "These were decent, family-sustaining jobs. The union has worked with the company to make this a profitable operation for more than 30 years. This clearly isn't about economics - it's about busting the union."

Meanwhile, CEP Local 255G has continued the painfully slow fight before the Alberta Labour Relation's board and in front of Central Webs facilities on 170 Street and 112 Avenue, holding information pickets. The process has been long and difficult but the spirits of the Ed-Web workers have never wavered. What has kept these workers' spirits up is waiting to have their day in court in front of the Alberta Labour Board. That took place November 7, 8 and 9, and continued November 24th. A number of locals in the Edmonton region dropped by the Labour Board to offer their support for the Ed-Web brothers and sisters.

CEP Local 255G has presented a solid case. An optimistic Ray Wade said, "I feel that we have presented enough evidence to prove successor ship rights and I feel that when the Alberta Labour Board makes its decision the Ed-Web workers will be returning to a unionized shop."

Local 191 - 125 Years Old

CEP Local 191 celebrated its 125th birthday in grand style with a reception Nov. 26th for members, friends, past presidents and an 84-year-old dues paying member who has been in the local 65 years!

Art Komus started paying dues to the Winnipeg Typographical Union, Local 191 of the International Typographical Union (ITU), in 1945. The soon to be 85-year-old continues to pay retiree dues and told the assembled celebrants at the anniversary party that he is proud of 191's long history

of activism. Among the "graduates" of Local 191 are the legendary MP Stanley Knowles (who paid dues up until he died), Saskatchewan's first Premier Walter Scott, and NDP Leader Tommy Douglas.

Local 191 President Rick Palmer told everyone his involvement in Local 191 began because he was impressed how the Local cared about the individual person as well as the collective good.

Palmer proudly accepted plaques commemorating the birthday event from Ontario VP Cec Makowski (191 represents members at the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal) and a plaque from CEP National, presented by Admin. Vice-President Wendy Sol.

The Winnipeg Typographical Union began in 1881 but its modern history began about 20 years ago when 191, which represented composing room employees at the Winnipeg Free Press and commercial printers at various companies, merged with the Media Union of Manitoba, which represented other workers at the Winnipeg Free Press and Winnipeg Sun.

The ITU was swallowed up by the Communications Workers of America in the 1980s and Local 191 (along with many other Canadian ITU and media locals) looked for a home in Canada where progressive ideas and militancy were celebrated. Local 191 joined CEP in 1994 to continue the tradition of fighting for media and commercial print workers.







Don MacNeil


A Message from Don MacNeil

As I sit here in rainy Vancouver I am reflecting on holiday seasons past and on cold and snowy winter days in Edmonton. I think that the rain is going to be easier to live with. I think that I'm going to like this change.

With every passing year there are changes that we face, some big and some small. This year is a very big change for me and my family as I take up my new union responsibilities and my family adjusts to our move to the BC Coast.

For many of our members there has also been big change. We have welcomed thousands of new members from the construction and telecommunications sector into CEP. We have lost some of our members due to downsizing, closures, and retirements.

 **Don MacNeil** 
I look forward to doing that with the support of all our members in the Western Region.

During this holiday season I hope that you are able to share time relaxing with your family and friends. On behalf of all our staff, the Administrative Vice Presidents, Wendy Sol and Don Boucher, the Rank and File Board Members Scott Doherty, Wally Ewanicke, Donna Fauchox and Angela Adams and from my family to yours I want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. 

Local takes on Issue of Waiting Time

What most of us take for granted, the principle of paying workers from their scheduled start time, whether or not they actually perform any work, is pretty much universal. Generally, if you are required to be at work, you get paid. Things are not so simple in the transportation industry. Traditionally truck drivers get paid by the mile so, the rule of thumb in trucking is, if the wheels aren't turning, the driver isn't being paid.

Almost every day, the average truck driver in Canada, is working at least part of the day for free. There are all sorts of situations which cause delays;

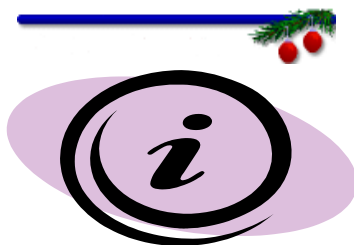
- If the load isn't ready the driver waits for free,
- He or she fuels the truck on their own time,

- If there is a road closure they wait until it opens for free,
- If they arrive at the delivery point and the customer isn't ready to unload for 4 or 5 hours the wait is unpaid,
- The drivers have to fill out all paperwork on their own time even at border crossings.

I think the average worker can understand why the traditional practice is wearing a bit thin.

Local 605, representing workers at Kindersley Transport are attempting make significant changes to the way they are compensated. The local is attempting to negotiate a system so that drivers are paid for the time they wait.

able to get a good night's sleep or to be home with their families. That way, the driver would be alert, more fresh and ready drive hundreds of miles they are expected to travel every day. The bottom line is that drivers are increasingly unwilling to continue working for no pay. Negotiations continue but the local is optimistic that we will come away from the bargaining table with this issue resolved.



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It is not about looking for ways to make money for waiting time but rather, they would like to see that time eliminated as much as possible. The drivers would prefer to be able to go to work, do their job in the most expedient way and then be

**Western Region News is produced in the CEP Saskatchewan office.
Editor Gord Hunter
Phone: 306 777-0005
Fax: 306 584-8714
gfhcep@sasktel.net**