



Operation Christmas Cheer

A Non-Profit Organization

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is that time of year again...time to organize, mobilize and start spreading the word to every local in Ontario about organized labours 6th annual Operation Christmas Cheer campaign!

Operation Christmas Cheer's only mandate is to deliver grass roots support, cheer, food hampers, grocery gift cards (so a family can purchase a traditional Christmas dinner) and toys to Ontario picket-lines during the Holiday Season. Every year our mission is the same, help as many union families as possible!

Right now, an unprecedented amount of our Brothers and Sisters are facing the harsh reality of being on the picket-line for an extended amount of time ranging from 4 months to 39 months. They are struggling to make ends meet with little to no hope of returning to work before Christmas!

There is no doubt that the employers listed below are intent on breaking the union by refusing to bargain or by bargaining in bad faith. Job security, seniority, safety, working conditions, fair wages, benefits and pensions across the province, are under attack by greedy corporate agendas that are deplorable, shocking and morally unacceptable.

On behalf of **6 union locals and 3,865 of our Brothers and Sisters on strike/lockout**, Operation Christmas Cheer is respectfully asking your local/union/committee/council or region to **take action, support, and help us cheer on these locals in hardship** this Holiday Season;

1. **Communications, Energy and Paper Workers of Canada - CEP 37x – Timmins:** 95 members have been locked out by Grant Forest Products since September 2006 – **39 months.**
2. **Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Union of Canada – CEP 2003 – Toronto:** 61 members were locked out in June and then TERMINATED one month later. 61 members continue to walk the picket-lines against Cadillac Fairview (TD Centre) – **5 months.**
3. **United Steelworkers – USW 271G – Erin/Cambridge Area:** 44 members continue to strike against Guardian Fiberglass Inc since June 2007 – **29 months.**
4. **United Steelworkers - USW 1-500 – Brantford:** 75 members on strike against ECP since August 2008 – **15 months.**
5. **United Steelworkers – USW 9511 – Provincial:** 590 members on strike against Drivetest since August 2009 – **4 months.**
6. **United Steelworkers – USW 6500 – Sudbury:** 3,000 members on strike against Vale Inco since July 2009 – **5 months.**

Every dollar, non-perishable food and toy collected by OCC goes directly into the hands of our Brothers and Sisters on strike/lockout within our communities. All monetary contributions collected are used to purchase grocery gift cards (from unionized grocery stores when possible) for active union families collecting strike pay during the holidays. OCC will deliver Labours Christmas Cheer on the dates and times listed below. All details including picket-line locations will be posted online at: www.OperationCheer.com. Everyone is invited to come out and show support!

- **USW 6500 Sudbury** – Saturday, December 10: Starting at 9:00 am, we will visit all 9 picket-lines to deliver as many food hampers as possible.
- **USW 271G Erin** – Monday, December 14: 12:00 pm
- **USW 1-500 Brantford** – Tuesday, December 15: 12:00 pm
- **CEP 2003 Toronto** – Wednesday - December 16: 12:00 pm
- **CEP 37X Timmins** – Thursday – December 17: 12:00 pm
- **USW 9511 Ottawa** – Monday, December 21: 12:00 pm





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We have 6 weeks or 41 days to make this happen so your immediate attention is requested. **The goal is to raise \$75,000 or \$75.00 grocery gift cards** for members so they can buy their own traditional Christmas dinner for their family. The staff reps and officers from each local will help distribute food, toys and grocery cards to their member. **Please note:** Because of size of USW 6500, all grocery gift cards will be donated to the USW Union Food Bank in Sudbury which is run by SOAR C2 retirees. Members of 6500 will be able to pick-up groceries for their family as needed. OCC has also committed to sponsor picket-line BBQ's during the month of December.

Please make all donation checks payable to Operation Christmas Cheer

Mail any amount you are able to donate **by December 21st** to;

Operation Christmas Cheer

c/o Casandra Robinson

101 Lockhaven Private, Ottawa, ON, K2J 5L5

3 simple ways you can get involved and make a HUGE difference in someone's life this Christmas...

1. **Word-of-mouth - Please help spread the Cheer online.** Post a link to OCC on your website. Join our Facebook group (link online at: www.OperationCheer.com). Forward this email (PDF format is attached for easy forwarding) on to your sister locals, your regional, provincial or national executive board or anyone connected to labour.
2. **"Pass the Hat and Collect Change"** at your next general membership meeting or labour event. Ask members if they would like to donate any spare change in their pockets and or ask your local executive board, regional/provincial committee(s), council(s), or local labour council to make a contribution and sponsor a union family.
3. **Promote an Operation Christmas Cheer Food and Toy Drive** within your local, labour council or workplace. Ask people if they'd like to drop-off a non-perishable food item or new unwrapped toy. Many people will step up and gladly help out... you just need to ask! You can download a blank OCC poster (so you can customize it) promoting a food and toy drive within your workplace.

November 12th to December 18th Food and Toy - Drop Off Locations

The unions and labour councils listed below have graciously donated space within their offices for Operation Christmas Cheer 2009. More drop-off locations will be added in the coming weeks. Please check online at www.OperationCheer.com for a complete list of locations. If you are unable to drop-off any items you collect, please call me at (613) 301-2988 and I will gladly make arrangements to pick-up.

OTTAWA

Ottawa and District Labour Council: 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 500. Contact is Sean McKenny (613) 223-7820

USW Ottawa Office: 2285 St.Laurent Blvd, Building D 12. Contact is Robert Macheta or Dave Lipton (613) 260-7205

CEP Local 247: 101 Lockhaven Private. Contact person is Casandra Robinson (613) 692-4568

Teamsters Local 91: 1300 Ages Drive. Contact is Brian MacDonald (613) 247-9191





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SUDBURY

USW Sudbury Union Food Bank: 66 Brady. Contact person is Julien Dionne (705) 675-2461 ext 422

OSHAWA

USW Oshawa Office: 115 Albert Street. Contact person is Joanne Aubry (905) 576-6262

TORONTO

Toronto and York Region Labour Council: 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 407. Contact is John Cartwright (416) 441-3663

Central Ontario Building Trades: 2088 Westin Road. Contact is Jay Peterson (416) 449-5115

CEP Local 87M – SONG: 1253 Queen Street East. Contact is Maureen Dawson (416) 461-2461

BRANTFORD

Brantford & District Labour Centre: 1100 Clarence Street S. Contact is Gary MacDonald (519) 751-9371

CAMBRIDGE

USW Cambridge Office: 2445 Eagle Street North. Contact is Tom Walsh or Marty Warren (519) 650-3405

LONDON

AIL Canada-CEP Local 247: 557 Southdale Road E, Suite 202. Contact is Christine Hirtzel (519) 649-6661

Food and toys collected will be used to make the Christmas food hampers for as many union families as possible, on strike/lockout this Christmas. Weekly updates of donations collected, will be posted on online so be sure to check the website often: www.OperationCheer.com

It is so important that our Brothers and Sisters who are sacrificing greatly, KNOW that they have the full support of their fellow trade unionists. This year OCC needs your support more than ever! **YOU are Operation Christmas Cheer and YOU can help make Christmas much brighter for many union families.** Picket-line solidarity is one of the foundations of trade unionism where the smallest acts of kindness, encouragement, and support give members the strength needed to continue the fight for a fair settlement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (613) 692-4568 or cell (613) 301-2988. I'd like to thank you all in advance for any show of support and kindness towards these locals facing adversity.

In Solidarity,
Casandra Robinson

Founder - Coordinator
Operation Christmas Cheer
CEP 247 – Secretary Treasurer
Email: casandra@operationcheer.com

www.OperationCheer.com

