

ISSUE 9
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PICKET-LINE PRESS

www.OperationCheer.com

www.facebook.com/OperationChristmasCheer

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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. **Be Union – Buy Union – Support Union!**



THANK-YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

116 + TOYS handed out, **53 VOLUNTEERS**, **149** unions, labour councils

and supporters raising **\$81,549.60** for **247 FAMILIES** with an avg of 4 per

household = **988 LIVES TOUCHED**. Travelled over **1400 km'** delivering

7400 POUNDS of FOOD in 2014





THE TRUTH HURTS + NURSES KNOW!

By Linda Haslam-Stroud, President → Ontario Nurses' Union

As frontline nurses and advocates for our patients, we know first-hand the many truths about Ontario's under-funded and over-burdened health care system. Truths that the government and hospitals do not want to acknowledge.

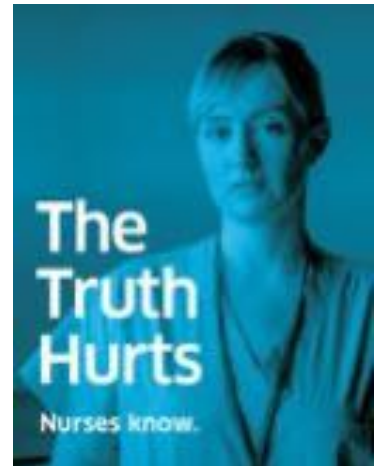
We live with the truth every day in our workplaces. Hospitals in particular have made significant budget cuts – on the backs of RNs. 625 RNs - more than 1.2 million hours of care - have been cut in 2015. Understaffing is rampant and is affecting the care that patients will receive. Our hospital units are over-crowded with complex patients with not enough RNs to care for them.

Ontario has the second-worst RN-to-population ratio in Canada. We, as registered nurses and health-care professionals, know the truth. Every extra patient added to an RN's workload results in a **seven per cent increase in risk of patient morbidity and mortality** - that's complications and even death. Complications include bedsores, ulcers, sepsis, pneumonia and cardiac arrest.

That's why the Ontario Nurses' Association has launched a fall campaign – [The Truth Hurts. Nurses Know](http://nursesknow.ona.org) (nursesknow.ona.org) – that represents a frank and honest perspective about what's really happening in health care. We need your help in spreading the word and supporting our campaign. Here's how you can help:

- Visit our [Nurses Know website](http://nursesknow.ona.org) (nursesknow.ona.org) and read the facts about how issues such as inadequate funding and RN cuts are hurting our patients. Watch our TV ad and listen to our radio spots that talk about nurses trying to deliver quality care faced with four years of frozen base funding for hospitals.
- Sign our Petition for Better Care - calling on the government to stop RN cuts, and to address underfunding and understaffing in our hospitals. As nurses and health care professionals, we know how cuts put our patients at risk.

The truth hurts. Nurses know. And we need the public, allies and our patients to know, too. Thanks for your help in getting out the word.



REFLECTION

By Sean McKenny, President → Ottawa & District Labour Council

It was only a short time ago Canadians from coast to coast to coast elected a new federal government. Many union members, organizations and others volunteered tirelessly on election campaigns across our city. The message clear in that four more years of a Stephen Harper led Conservative government would continue to have a negative effect on our community. Add in the approximate 85,000 Federal government employees in Ottawa and their treatment of late by the conservative government and the need for change became paramount.

Suffice it to say October 20th was indeed a day of reflection for many. Disappointment, perhaps frustration that our party, the New Democratic Party, had been reduced in their number of seats held across Canada. Surprise, perhaps cautiously pessimistic, that the Liberals had formed a majority government. Excitement, perhaps elation, that Stephen Harper and the Conservative government had been reduced to only 99 seats from the 159 seats held prior to the election.

As I read through my email the morning after e-day this one addressed to me from a union member named Teresa employed for several years by the federal government stood out: *"It feels like prayers were answered. I'm so proud to go to work today and serve Canadians. I'm so happy I'm crying"*. Indeed Teresa so were many others.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." → Margaret Mead



SMALL ACTION MEANS A LOT

By Katha Fortier - Ontario Regional Director → UNIFOR

Collective action is the strength and the heart of the labour movement. Workers who strike or are locked out by their employer, are resisting the extreme power of corporations, and the relentless race to the bottom. They resist, not only for themselves, but for all workers, and they defend future generations and good jobs.

As trade unionists, there is nothing more important than showing our solidarity during strikes. Most of us will never go on strike and it's not always apparent how we can do this. Some of the actions are small, like simply stopping by a picket line for a few minutes. Donating a coffee gift card. Even honking your horn as you drive by raises their spirits.

The support of Operation Christmas Cheer goes beyond what we can do as individuals and is an illustration of collective action at its best. Unifor is incredibly proud of the work you have done and commit to offering the full support of our national union, Ontario council, and local unions. Providing striking workers and their families with the resources to celebrate the holiday is a gift of solidarity that they will remember for years to come.



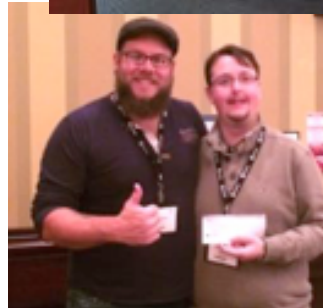


ONTARIO PICKET-LINES





SPREADING THE CHEER!





VOLUNTEERS ROCK!
SPECIAL THANKS to Kelly
Tosato + Shawn Haggerty and
EVERYONE at UFCW 175/633
For providing space to sort +
pack and so many volunteers!



A BIG **THANK-YOU** to the Following Unions, Committees, Councils, Individuals and Companies Who Make Operation Christmas Cheer Possible

Canadian Media Guild, Ottawa - **Canadian Union of Public Employees National Executive Board + Ontario Division** and locals 4000 Ottawa, 4186 London, CSU Solidarity Fund, Power Workers Union local 1000 Toronto, 1979 Ottawa, 1287 Niagara, 4207 St Catherines - **Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union** local 225 Ottawa, 343 Toronto - **CUASA** Ottawa - **Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario + EFTO Executive Board and FO Staff** and Simcoe County, Peel, Bluewater Owen Sound, York Region Occasional Teachers', York Region, Ottawa Carleton Occasional Teachers', Ottawa, Rainbow Sudbury, Algoma SSMarie, Aurora, Toronto Occasional Teachers', Hamilton-Wentworth + DECE - **IATSE** Toronto - **Int Brotherhood of Electrical Workers** Ontario and Construction Council of ON Organizing - **Int Union Of Elevator Constructors** local 96 Ottawa - **National Union of Public and General Employees - Ontario Nurses Association + ONA Executive Board - Ontario Public Service Employees Union** and locals 232 Guelph, 464 Ottawa, 235 Clarksburg - 464 Ottawa, 479 Ottawa - **Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association + OECTA Executive Board** and locals Simcoe Muskoka Elementary + Secondary, Toronto Secondary Unit, Mississauga, Dufferin & Peel, Bruce Grey Elementary, Algonquin-Lakeshore Kingston - **Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation + OSSTF Executive Board and Provincial** and Toronto, District 25 Ottawa-Carleton, District 17 Barrie, District 16 Newmarket, District 28 Renfrew, District 19 Peel + Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit, District 13 Durham, Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Tom Bickford, District 12 Toronto + Mississauga, Dryden - **Public Service Alliance of Canada** UTU 00012 **Teamsters** locals Canada Rail Conference - **United Food & Commercial Workers 175/633 + Executive Board and staff Ontario - UNIFOR - National Executive Board + Ontario Executive Board** and locals 723M Toronto, 975 Scarborough, 6005 London, 914 Sarnia, 598 Sudbury, 2002 Mississauga, 8833 Brantford, 27 Toronto/London, 2003 Toronto, 32 Smooth Rock Falls, 16-0 Goderich, 36 Corbeil, 1106 Waterloo, 41-0 Streetsville, 44 London, 46 London, 79M Ajax, 252 Mississauga, 105 Dryden, 247 Eastern Canada, 691G Fergus, 1999 London/SW Ontario, 232 Ottawa, 2003 Toronto, 685 Peterborough, 593 Oakville, 88 Ingersoll, Independent Parts Suppliers Council Kitchener, 4120 Guelph, 8833, 1524 Kitchener, 483 United Food Processors' Union Cardinal, 2163 Ingersoll, 1541, 28-0 Brockville, 672 Sarnia, SONG 87M Toronto, 222 Retirees Oshawa, 1075 Thunder Bay, 41-0 Toronto, 2025 Ottawa, 222 Oshawa, 673 Toronto, 591G Toronto, 229 Thunder Bay, 27C Scarborough - **UNITE HERE** local 75 - **United Steelworkers District 6 + USW D6 Executive Board** and locals 1-500 provincial, 650 Thunder Bay, 665 Terrace Bay, 5055 Thunder Bay, 9246 Wawa, 1-2010 Kapuskasing, 5481 Thunder Bay, 9165 Marathon, 2020 Sudbury, 8300 Toronto, 4464 Marathon, 9422 Thunder Bay, 9350 Timmins, 838 Kitchener, 9740 L'Orignal, 9597 Ontario, 8327 Ottawa - **UA** local 71 Ottawa

Individuals: Patrick & Anna Kerwin, Kim McIntyre Toronto, Barbara & Phillip Kosow, Toronto - Nancy Faraday, Nepean - Alan Wall + Joanie Deferrari Holland Landing, Toronto - Gabriela Berloni, Toronto - Roger Smith, Texas - Daryl Barnett, Victoria BC - Diana Crosby, Texas - Debbie Gamble, Texas - Marlene Rivier, Ottawa - Herb Danheir - Thunder Bay, Chuck Hill California, - Peter Lezama Brampton - Mavis McIntyre Puslinch - Robin Dunbar - Dan Maxwell Ottawa - Nancy Akehurst Ottawa - Daniel Pike Ottawa - Felipe Pareja Mississauga - Maryanne Lewyckyj - Hill Ottawa - Selena Walker Ottawa, Mary Grainger Ottawa - Amy Chevis Barrie - Bonnie + Bryan Wells White Rock BC

Labour Councils: Ontario Federation of Labour - Ottawa District Labour Council - Durham Region Labour Council - Orangeville & District Labour Council - Brantford District Labour Council - Waterloo Regional Labour Council - Hamilton and District Labour Council - Toronto & York District Labour Council - North Bay District Labour Council - Peel Regional Labour Council - Oxford Regional Labour Council - Kenora Labour Council

Committees and Councils: UNIFOR ON Communications Council - United Steelworkers Northwestern Area Council - Congress of Union Retirees of Canada Ottawa, USW EOAC, USW GBAC - ETFO/CUPE/ERFP Lisgar Middle School - Toronto Area Council - Hamilton USW Area Council

Companies: A+J Vacworks Inc Mount Albert - American Income Life Insurance Company in Canada - Ross's Independent: Loblaws - **OutGROWOutPLAY.com**





For the last 3 years the ODLC and CUPE 4000 have held an Operation Christmas Cheer fundraiser at CUPE 4000's hall. This event encourages local unions and it's members to drop off food, toys and stay a bit enjoying refreshments and socializing. It's absolutely incredible and OCC can't thank the ODLC, CUPE 4000, Sean McKenny, Jennifer Moore , Chas Robinson, Kim Monette, Rob Driskell and Bruce Waller enough for organizing this great event!



THANK-YOU -> THANK-YOU -> THANK-YOU!

**OTTAWA & DISTRICT
LABOUR COUNCIL + CUPE
4000 - 3rd ANNUAL OCC
DROP-OFF + CHARITY BBQ**



FOLLOW OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER ON FACEBOOK!

OCC will be posting all our volunteer schedules, picket-line locations, delivery dates, pictures and up-dates on Facebook. Want to help "Spread the Cheer" this year? It's SUPER easy...

"LIKE" and please "SHARE" our fanpage!
[Facebook.com/OperationChristmasCheer](https://www.facebook.com/OperationChristmasCheer)

