



**SUDBURY MINE, MILL & SMELTER WORKER'S UNION
LOCAL 598/UNIFOR**

2550 Richard Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3G 0A3
☎ 705-673-3661
Fax: 705-673-1183
💻 www.minemill598.com



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NEWSLETTER

To all members that work at
St. Joseph's Villa

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We've finally gotten out of this frigid and snowy month of January and I can imagine people's spirits are on the rise after being confined to their homes for pretty much the entire month. Hopefully that furry rodent Warton Willie will deliver a warm and early spring, or he could face a mutiny.

We are now finally going into the last days of bargaining for non-monetary issues. Hopefully we can build on monetary items from there. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

I have been out conversing with the members on issues that are important to them and it alarms me when some members comments are that the Union does nothing for us. Well, the response to that is "We are ALL the Union". The gains that we have accomplished are too many to list. Some of them are,

- ◆ Competitive wages
- ◆ Personal time (7 days per year)
- ◆ Pensions (for both full time and part time)
- ◆ Job security
- ◆ Right to know (your rights and obligations as an employee)
- ◆ Longer vacation periods
- ◆ Banking of Stat Holidays
- ◆ Shift exchanges and give aways
- ◆ Banking of vacation time for part time staff
- ◆ Union representation for all employees
- ◆ Education available through our Local for all members
- ◆ Monthly meetings to make available all issues and financial reports

I cannot emphasize enough to the importance of attending your monthly membership meetings. This is where you will get the information and any questions you need answered.

The board and unit chairs and committee members are the professionals in this area and they have the answers you are looking for. If there are people in your workplace that are releasing information that you do not think is truthful, then you need to approach committee members to verify the validity of those comments.

Please feel free to approach any of your elected members and/or health & safety members with questions that are pertinent to your needs.

So, in moving forward, we are fighting on many grounds with cutbacks from both levels of government (on health care funding), interference from company officials, low morale in the workplace due to frozen wages, possible spring elections along with all that. Again, possible cut backs, work overload, family logistics – we, as people and as a Union have to ensure that we do our best to be fully involved and ensure that come election time, we take a stance and send the right people to Parliament Hill – and at the municipal level – to City Hall.

Unifor is the union for you when it comes to your rights, education and the strength in numbers to fight for all we believe in.

In Solidarity,

Roger Perron

Roger Perron, Unit Chair