



Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union, Local 598 / Unifor

September 4, 2013

Hello brothers,

If you haven't been following your union on the live web-cast that was happening over the weekend, we are now part of a greater and bigger union. The delegates voted 96% in favour of our new name which is now Unifor. Our union membership is now 300,000+ members strong – Canada wide. We are now the largest union in Canada.

A demonstration of our strength has been proven with the pending approach of the American cell phone company Verizon. We rallied this weekend against the incoming American company that would have stolen our Canadian jobs, our hard earn telecommunication technology for their own profit and our money! But we stood against this in Toronto as ONE united front! And with that, we have turned Verizon away. Read more of this at

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1217955/unifor-applauds-news-of-verizon-about-turn-calls-for-telecommunications-industrial-strategy> .

On the home front and with respect to our local member ship, I can't help but to keep hearing the buzz around the work place that our union is "weak". When I hear this, I can't help but to try and understand what it is they are talking about. When I think about our union, even before it became larger and stronger, we had a very supportive and pro-active union. Evidence of that is found in our collective agreement (your union contract). Our union fought very hard to get the benefits that we are all using today, some more than others, and I still hear that our union is weak? Take a look at your wages and think about it! Do any of you think that we would be getting paid as much as we are now without the union? Look at the vacations we get and think about it! Would you be getting all of these perks...and then some? Do you still think that our union is still weak?

Ok, so some of you are saying that we have labour laws. Yes, we do, even as a union we have those to back us up as well, if we need too and even better than that, our union knows exactly how to use those laws. Now let me ask you this, "How do you think those

labour laws got to where they are today?" Do you really think that the company and the government decided one day to just give these benefits and wages away? NO! They were negotiated by unions to guarantee a better life for the workers!

When I was at our founding convention on Labour Day weekend in Toronto, I saw a man walking around, and he had a message on his shirt. I couldn't help but think about that message and say yeah, "that's true!" That message read, "Unions.... people who brought you the weekend". Now, isn't that the truth.

Fellow brothers, I ask you to sit back and really think about this. Is the Union weak? Now, you might be saying things such as, well we didn't win this grievance or that one. But, you have to remember that grievances set precedence and when the Union feels that a grievance won't be won, they are in a position to look at the big picture so that unfavorable decisions don't work against us all in the future. We are constantly fighting to ensure that we all have better working conditions and a more fulfilling way of life! You have to admit that if any of us are in a precarious position where we are being wrongfully disciplined, our union is NOT weak. Not every battle can be won, history dictates that and one more thing I would like to point out too is that WE are the Union. We, as members, have to be involved and work together and we all have to start saying...this is MY union. We have strength in numbers and when we all band together to fight for better working conditions and a better collective agreement, then we will all start to see a real strength. When we are not together, that is where weakness comes from. I've seen and heard the passion and conviction in all our voices when we have something we all need to fight. Keep this in your thoughts always, "We are the union and TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG!" So the next time you hear one of your brothers say that the union is weak, I ask that you help to change the views of others and tell him that we are stronger than he can imagine. If we were all to start doing this in our workplace, we will all start to witness a huge difference. Protect not only yourself, but your brothers as well. That is what makes our union strong.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

