

FRONT LINE FLYER

Mine Mill Local 598/C.A.W

www.minemill598.com

February 25th, 2008

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President's Report

By: Rick Grylls

There has been a lot of speculation of a possible merger or buyout of Xstrata with the VALE INCO Company. Only time will tell if the parties are to join together into one of the largest mining companies in the world.

The on-going restructuring of our internal employer/employee relationship and the growth of Fraser Morgan, Nickel Rim, the plans of upgrading and expanding the Strathcona Mill and Falconbridge Smelter all stem from a solid and progressive agenda of Xstrata Nickel.

The Local 598/CAW Vice-President, Dwight Harper has started a three-month stay at the union offices to help complete the workload and projects at hand. Dwight will also be giving some H&S training and attending a Port Elgin PEL course.

The Local has been growing over the last five years and today is very active in many aspects of the workplaces, from health care to manufacturing. The new leadership is self-supported by their membership and the Unit Chairs will be attending the CAW June Bargaining Convention in Toronto.

We also have the H&S Co-Chairs set to attend an H&S conference in May. This is the on-going training to allow the workplace leadership to be efficient at their positions.

I want to thank all the employees who contributed to the 2008 United Way Campaign and Xstrata Nickel who matched dollar for dollar.

A personal thank you to Dennis Harvey for the effort he gave to make it so successful.



Xstrata Nickel Unit Chair Report

By: Richard Paquin

First, I would like to wish every one a happy and prosperous 2008.

Nickel Rim South

The first set of postings was recently posted. We are in the process of looking at all the applicants and the possible successfuls. We will be talking to the possible successful applicants from all sites and will be bring Nickel Rim South to all the sites via pictures, video and discussion.

Shortly afterwards, the applicants will be asked to accept or reject the postings. I would like to remind our employees that because it is a business-wide posting, the applicant within the same classification of the posting will be considered first before going to the applicant from other classifications.

Fraser Mine

The Company and the Union have been working since last November on the proposed shift schedules that the Company has brought to the employees of Fraser Mine. We had presentations to all the affected crews last week, with the official votes afterwards. The results were tabulated after the last meeting on Saturday night and the majority of the employees that voted, elected to start the 4-5-5- schedule that will become effective March 3rd, 2008. Good luck to all.



Fraser Morgan

A lot of work has been going on and many postings were awarded. This is work that is ongoing and as the need increases, more postings will be awarded.

Our employees are going to be taking over some of the work on 3900 that was being done by a contracting firm. I would like to remind our employees, because of the constant changing nature of this project vigilance and patience is of the essence to ensure that we all return home after every shift unhurt.

Central Services

This operation has three departments: Maintenance Department, Construction Crew Maintenance Department and Central Mine Services Production Department (CMS).

All the employees from these departments are our workers and because of the nature of the operation, travel to different sites on different work on any given day, whether it is on surface or underground, sometimes they will be assigned to work with crews at the sites or on their own.

It is imperative that we show respect and dignity towards all employees, whether they come from Central Services, other sites or contractors.

Skilled Trades

The internal application for the apprenticeship has ended and we are currently reviewing the applicants' test results. The successful applicants will be contacted shortly.

The CAW National Office often assists people in need across the country and have established a "Disaster Relief Work Project Team, designed to assist communities in need of assistance after disaster has struck them.

For this to work, we have set up a list of Trades people who are willing to help rebuild a community after such a disaster. The next project is in the spring and it is to re-build a water

treatment plant in an Inuit community in the Yukon. If you are a tradesperson and would like to volunteer your skills to a future project, please submit your name, with your skills, to the Union Offices.

This National Committee will select the tradesperson from the master list with the required skills and set up the working teams. Unpaid leave of absence will be granted to the employees who would like to volunteer their time for this. Your accommodation and traveling will be paid by the Union.



Vice-President's Report

By: Dwight Harper

The workload at the hall continues to grow as our rank and file numbers continue to grow. Between the day to day running of the Union, the putting out of fires as they arise and the re-hashing of issues you thought were put to bed, there never seems to be enough hours in the day to take care of the items that were put on the shelf to be visited at another time.

I am a little over three weeks into my three-month "leave of absence" here at the Union Offices and have a number of those shelved projects heading towards completion (although the progress sometimes seems to be at a snail's pace).

I am thankful for the opportunity to learn and be a part of the inner workings of the Office. With the tutoring of the President, the Health & Welfare Officer, the Unit Chair and even the secretaries, it has made things easier for me.

If my focus gets ripped in multiple directions, they are quick to get me back on track and I wouldn't want it any other way.

In the end, I would like to think that I will be a better rounded Union Officer for it.