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## Local members attend Road Transport Council By Brothers Rick Toombs and Maurice Mills (Brinks BC)

Several members of CAW Local 114 had the privilege of attending the CAW Council in Toronto as delegates on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

Prior to Council, the members met with the Road Transport Council on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, chaired by President Bill Gaucher, who is also the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 114. There were representatives from taxi, bus, trucking and rail, as well as armoured car representatives from Brinks, G4S and B&L. About 50% of the CAW membership is related to transportation.

There was an election of officers for the Road Transport Council, followed by an open discussion around the room. Issues tabled included our retirement packages being attacked nationally and our benefit plans being redefined.

Brother Gaucher gave his President's report, followed by a financial report by Brother Jim Connelly.

The members all introduced themselves and said a few words about the problems and issues specific to each of them. Brother Maurice Mills (Brinks BC) spoke of problems they have with the erosion of traditional work, and some safety issues. He also noted that Brinks does not have a National Health and Safety Policy Committee. Brother Rick Toombs (Brinks BC) spoke about the agreement that was just ratified, noting some gains and some ongoing issues.

Following the Road Transport meeting, we met as a group with the other armoured car delegates for the first ever Joint Armoured Car Committee [JACC]. There were representatives from Vancouver, Langley, Prince George, London, Kitchener, Toronto and Ottawa, including all the major companies. It was incredible to be able to sit together for the first time ever and share our common concerns and goals. Some of our common concerns were the lack of Regulatory Safety Guidelines and Standards in our industry. A sub-committee was formed to put in place an Armoured Car Industry Act that would take into consideration our recommendations for the RSGS and table legislation that will protect us, the workers, as we put our lives on the line every single day for the companies we work for. We discussed common issues and agreed to work together as a group. We are now a sub-committee of the Road Transport Council, and will be chaired by Brother Andre Desjardins, President of Local 4266 (Ottawa).

We were both asked to be part of this sub-committee and gladly accepted. This will be a challenging role in the months ahead and we are looking forward to the members' support and encouragement in this crucial step in making this a safe and profitable workplace for all our Brothers and Sisters in the industry.

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Gordon McGrath - *President*

Bill Gaucher - *Secretary Treasurer*

National Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers Union (CAW-Canada)

[www.cawlocal114.com](http://www.cawlocal114.com)

A very warm send-off was given to retiring CAW-Canada National Rep Bob Chernecki, Assistant to the President. Brother Chernecki is a man who dedicated most of his working life to the betterment of the Union and workers' rights. Enjoy your retirement, Bob!

December 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first day of the CAW Council. There was a presentation by Brother Ken Lewenza, CAW-Canada President, including an interesting video on the Air Canada strike, showcasing our members in action. We heard from various members about the strike. It was encouraging to see gains despite threats from outside, where we were able to unite our Brothers and Sisters all across the country into a victory.

Author and speaker Linda McQuaig gave a rousing speech on the book she co-wrote titled "The Trouble with Billionaires", where she addresses the 1% who hold and control the vast majority of our money. Copies were given to attending members. We also were treated to a visit and a great speech from Peggy Nash, candidate for the leadership of the federal NDP.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> was the second day of the CAW Council. Brother Bill Murnighan, CAW Director of Research, introduced the full Road Transport report, and included a PowerPoint summary. Brother Bill Gaucher got up and spoke about the overall journey that took place to get this document before the Council. It was a lot of hard work and it was the Road Transport Council that pushed to have this developed.

The Occupy Movement was an interesting discussion point as we heard from various Locals of their support and encouragement and how we can further this movement into the next level.

We heard a very thankful speech from the mayor of Goderich, Ontario, the town that was devastated by a tornado on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

Men and women from the United Church were also present and spoke on inequalities in their workplace and their desire to band together and join the CAW. A movie was produced around this issue, it has become so alarming. Hopefully this year, the 7<sup>th</sup>, will be lucky for them.

We heard from Olivia Chow, wife of the late great Jack Layton. She spoke about the White Ribbon Campaign, which Jack started 20 years ago. We then heard from his son Michael Layton, who further spoke on the campaign, which has spread across 130 countries. Various men spoke from the floor, asking men to speak up about violence against women.

There was great discussion on the changes to the Ontario Compensation System and the KPMG report that undermines what we've fought for, and how the CAW can further fight this blatant disregard on workers' rights.

We addressed the economy and the Government Austerity measures and what that means for Canadians and our jobs and the public service cutbacks that are proposed. There was also a discussion regarding the value of building and buying Canadian.

We talked in length on the proposed CETA agreement and the dangers it represents to all Canadians.

The incredible opportunities and developments going on in our own Family Education Centre in Port Elgin were uplifting to hear. It was also great to see the further development of the CAW wind turbine going ahead and nearing completion.

Over the course of the two days, Council put forward 7 key recommendations that were addressed at length and voted on.

1. Further support the Occupy movement and what it represents.
2. Participate in the training and support of the Pay Equity legislation tabled at both the federal and provincial levels.
3. Recognize Jack Layton as the founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, which has grown to over 60 countries.
4. Recommend that Locals participate in the community events in support of remembering the tragedy at L'Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.
5. Recommend further endorsement of the Social Justice Fund to assist in the support of women's shelters and food banks across Canada.
6. Further endorse and implement our Vision for Sustainable Transportation document.
7. That the CAW continue to actively campaign against the proposed Canada-European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement [CETA].

In closing, we would like to say that it was both a privilege and an honor to be named a delegate and attend these meetings. To see the Local and National support of all these and many more key issues affecting Canadians was very encouraging. Brother Ken Lewenza is a great leader, and it was truly inspiring to see and understand just what it means to be a member of the CAW.

In Solidarity,

Rick Toombs  
Brinks Armoured Car BC

In Solidarity,

Maurice Mills  
Brinks Armoured Car BC

There are copies of the information handouts available for your review. If you would like to see any of the handouts, please contact Rick or Maurice.



Left to right: Loomis Unit Chair Mario Santos, Local 114 President Gord McGrath, B & L Shop Steward Chris Sheaves, G4S Shop Steward Dale Quinn, CAW Local 114 Union Rep Mark Mistic, Brinks Bargaining Committee Member Maurice Mills, Brinks Bargaining Committee Member Rick Toombs, CAW Local 114 Secretary-Treasurer Bill Gaucher, G4S Chief Steward Don McIver, and CAW-Canada President Ken Lewenza. Missing from the picture: CAW Local 114 Union Rep Harry Moon and CAW-Canada National Rep Gavin McGarrigle.