

Ford Canada CAW member's solidarity against concessions

As a rank and file member of the CAW [Canadian Auto Workers] Local 707, FORD Oakville Assembly Complex unit, I am thankful to the UAW members speaking out and standing up against further concessions for bailouts.

We ourselves were forced into an early ratification and massive concessionary contract in the Spring of 2008, and many of our members across the auto sector were under the impression that they would lose their jobs if they didn't vote yes to concessions. Oakville was in the process of hiring for a third shift. Here in Oakville our members made history, for the first time in CAW history we rejected the contract. Our reward for that was to be told that we were telling lies and not informed of the issues in the auto industry, these statements came from our Local and National Presidents in an interview with Tony Van Alphen of The Toronto Star (<http://www.carguidemagazine.com/article/237808> -).

What did those concessions resolve? Absolutely nothing. Our St. Thomas facility will close earlier than expected, our Windsor members who were hoping for 500 transfers to Oakville didn't get them, our third shift in Oakville didn't materialize and also destroyed the lives of those people who were told they had a job and had given notice at their current employers, GM in Oshawa lost a shift and a product, Chrysler in Brampton didn't get their potential third shift. We all got betrayed.

And now we are going back to the bargaining table. If these concessions pass there is nothing to stop the Big 3 coming back to us in a few months time to tell us they need more from us.

Let's not just show Solidarity for auto workers, let's build a permanent, strong rank and file alliance, maintain our gains, improve the conditions of the non-unionized plants and all workers everywhere.

Thank you for your determination not to allow these corporations to erode the rights of workers.

The responsibility is for our governments and these corporations to provide steady and good paying jobs for all people. We all have the right to work and live decent.

I truly believe we have to build a strong UAW and CAW alliance, we are both plagued with corporate friendly leadership.

In Solidarity,
Lindsay Hinshelwood
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