

a new direction

By the time this campaign goes to print we may have already been through another round of concessionary ratification. If these concessions are approved we must prepare ourselves for the next round, because concessions only lead to more concessions, they have never resolved a corporation's problems and will only deepen this economic crisis.

Why am I running for Vice President when I've never held a position, and only have just over 10 years seniority? Holding a position by no means qualifies or entitles anyone to another position, experience as a union representative doesn't necessarily even make you a trade unionist or a leader, and as far as seniority goes, I've had 30 years in the workforce, experience with other unions and I'm extremely active in the labour movement. Remember in plant issues are handled by the in plant reps, this position I am running for needs a strong voice.

Why do I support NO CONCESSIONS? Because they don't prevent layoffs, lost jobs or plant closures. In fact they cause these symptoms. The loss of vacation entitlement alone will lead to massive layoffs. I'm not going to preach to the NO supporters, but take this time to address those of you who approved concessions in the past and feel we need to make further sacrifice to help the corporations out.

We already have too many workers on indefinite layoff with call back rights who will unlikely ever work in our plants again. We have Windsor transfers who had to relocate who have no job guarantees. We have workers who have taken buyouts, who are merely bridged until their pension eligibility, on a limited income. All of us remaining active workers have been subjected to lengthy and massive layoffs over the years.

Most of us are struggling and there will always be the "we'll lose our jobs" threat.

Consider your obligation to our members who are locked into their mortgages, or those who will never own a home and can barely make their rent, those men who support two and three families, those who are merely working to pay bills, those who are locked in to their Big 3 car payments, those who have occurred debt and are facing personal bankruptcy, those who have run out of SUB and EI, those contemplating suicide – these are our issues and we must protect ourselves.

We are not stakeholders; we are workers and we sell our labour for an hourly wage.

Master Bargaining will not resolve the economic crisis and this will affect us for years to come, the solution is political. We need to address the economy to provide jobs so people will have spending power and we need to accept that the Big 3 will dissipate and ask ourselves "where do we go from here and what do we do?". If organized labour does not do this, who will? Who will save jobs, not just ours, if we don't save our own?

**FACEBOOK LINDSAY HINSHELWOOD
AND VOTE HER VICE PRESIDENT**

ALTERNATIVES TO CONCESSIONS

Nearly 20 countries have bailed out their industries, only two have demanded concessions from workers – the US and Canada. The governments are insisting, but we have the right to refuse, it is our job to resist and not to assist the government and the corporations in using this crisis as an excuse to erode the rights of workers.

Buyouts and bailouts appear to be solutions, but they are short termed. Buyouts are designed to cull the higher seniority workers and replace them with 2nd tier, lower paid workers. Bailouts are traditionally “make the richer, richer schemes”. These stimulus packages have not been constructed to help the economy.

So what are the alternative solutions? Here are just a few:

- 1) We need to distance ourselves from the ideal that we must only bailout the Big 3; this is elitist, unfavourable with other workers and will not stimulate the economy. We need to think about our customers too. We need to resolve the crisis with social restructuring.
- 2) We need to recognize that the economic crisis is not the result of workers’ wages and benefits and the problem will not be resolved in concessionary bargaining. We need to organize and mobilize the membership against the government and corporate demands. Why hasn’t our leadership done so? Without some profound – and radical – demands, we won’t be able to protect jobs or create new ones. Harping about trade policy won’t solve it.
- 3) We need to deprivatize the industries which contribute to this economic crisis for which we all depend on, nationalize auto and transportation, oil, natural gas, hydro electricity, steel making, tool and die, pharmaceuticals, banking, infrastructure building and construction, and so on. Does this sound scary, it shouldn’t, many of these industries were nationalized in the past, and this makes for a viable economy which will improve the lives of people. We already have nationalized and state owned corporations; our health care, lotteries, beer and liquor stores. Many economies in the world have returned to social restructuring.
- 4) We need to demand transparency for the terms and conditions for any tax payer initiative. We need to demand these corporations put up their property for collateral for any subsidization. These corporations are given subsidies, free land and tax breaks and they still continue to invest billions in Mexico and Brazil.
- 5) We need to challenge all the auto companies to produce different kinds of cars and transportation equipment, regulating the market and producers to address overcapacity.

**FACEBOOK LINDSAY HINSHELWOOD
AND VOTE HER VICE PRESIDENT**

and so this is Lindsay

I have a university degree (BA) from McMaster in Philosophy and continue to educate myself at the university level at both McMaster and York Universities in Labour Studies and Political Science. I've completed the CAW/MAC Certificate and the requirements for the Ontario Management Development Program (leadership is leadership) at Sheridan College – tuition is another benefit diminished in these concessions.

I myself have been in the workforce for 30 years, over 10 at FORD. I've worked for other unions; I am a published writer, I freelanced for *The Hamilton Spectator*, I've done criminal litigation for the Crown Attorney, and worked as a legal secretary. After all, this is also an administrative position I'm running for.

Over the past several months I have been building alliances and working with active and retired UAW and CAW members. I assisted the UAW with their VOTE NO campaign. FORD UAW merely approved these concessions by 59% production and 58% skilled trades. The resistance is building.

Here in Canada, I facilitated and organized, with members throughout the CAW auto sector, a positive demonstration at the 2009 Canadian Auto Show. We had a broad turn out of active and retired members from across Ontario, rank and file and leadership, other unions, and people joining us from the street. We were supporting, not only our gains, but the rights of all workers. We gained national exposure from the CBC media, a rare chance at having our voices heard.

The administrative responsibilities for the position of Vice President can be fulfilled by all the candidates; it's the leadership ability that makes the difference.

In the last few years we have spent nearly \$500,000 between putting our union hall up for sale and renovating it. The hall looks great and we now have nice leather couches, a big screen TV, and gorgeous landscaping. Had that money been applied to mobilizing the membership and demanding anti-scab legislation, plant closure and redundancy pay legislation, 40 hour work week legislation, EI restructuring and public education on why unions are necessary, the CAW Local 707 could have made a difference in and even advanced the labour movement.

Not only that, our mortgage was nearly paid off and our hall is still at risk of being expropriated to build a road.

Our union, as a whole, has not challenged the Big 3 in the past 5 years, except for the blockage in Oshawa last year, which ended without any real campaign. This created a sense of dependence and helplessness among our members, which was reflected in the workplace. We also dropped any pretense of an independent politics and literally endorsed the Liberals.

We've got to change our way of thinking.

**Facebook Lindsay Hinshelwood
And Vote Her Vice President**

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