

October 29, 2009

WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

CAW Local 200

INFORMATION / RATIFICATION MEETING

Saturday, October 31 at 2:00 pm at Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue & Tecumseh Road East,
Windsor, Ontario

CAW Local 1520

INFORMATION / RATIFICATION MEETING

Saturday, October 31 at 10:00 am at London Convention Centre, Wellington & York, London, Ontario

CAW Local 584

INFORMATION / RATIFICATION MEETING

Sunday November 1, 2009 at 2:00 pm at CAW Local 1285 Hall, 23 Regan Road, Brampton, Ontario

CAW Local 707

INFORMATION / RATIFICATION MEETING

Sunday, November 1st, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., Hamilton Convention Centre, Wentworth Room

1 Summers Lane, Hamilton, Ontario

It is essential that all members are notified of this meeting. Although it should have been made clear ahead of time whether this is just an information meeting or indeed a ratification vote. Therefore, we must assume this is a vote, and one that could have devastating consequences on our members.

The rules have been changed for the 707 vote because of the historical resistance, the ballots will be held hostage until the leadership pleads their case. This must be challenged, members have the right to decide how much they must listen to and they have the right to vote without the obstacle of ballots held back. This may also be the case for the other locals. Members have a right to challenge this issue and must do so at the start of these meetings. Delaying the vote is a violation of our rights.

ASK YOURSELVES WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

We know the GM pattern and it's not good. It has not helped GM sell cars, nor has it prevented GMAC asking for yet a third bailout. Moreso, there will be no jobs saved.

We know, although the voting ends October 31st, the UAW has so far overwhelmingly voted to reject further concessions and is asking for CAW members to stand in solidarity and reject concessions also. As in Canada, UAW workers have been threatened with no future commitments.

We've endured too many rounds of concessions for the promises of products, third shifts and saving our jobs.

WHAT HAVE WE GAINED? Absolutely nothing. In return for concessions we've lost thousands of jobs, endured economic hardship, paying for our pensions and benefits, harsher working conditions, less break and vacation time, stricter discipline and transferring our jobs to lower waged, and temporary insourced and outsourced workers. We've lost houses, even lives, families have broken down, substance abuse has increased.

Every time we make concessions we weaken ourselves as a union, on the shop floor and at the bargaining table. Concessions stop when we stop accepting them. We have a responsibility to retain the standard for all workers.

In Solidarity,

Lindsay Hinshelwood, rank and file member CAW Local 707