



POWERWORKS

July 2016 POWER WORKERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

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“Three Amigos” Statement on a North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment strategy

On June 29 Prime Minister Trudeau, U.S. President Obama, and Mexican President Peña Nieto released a joint statement confirming a shared commitment to a competitive, low-carbon, sustainable North American economy.



This should be good news for the likelihood of successful climate change action plan development and for PWU members.

The parties’ recognition of nuclear electricity generation as a clean energy technology is an important step forward toward developing a comprehensive strategy that can supply North America with clean, low-carbon electricity at a reasonable cost.

It also recognizes the value of electricity trade between countries, and this could open up even more opportunities for low-carbon Canadian electricity generators to displace fossil fuel generation in some parts of the U.S. Many Canadians are surprised to hear that Canada is

already the largest net exporter of electricity in the world and that exported electricity is virtually greenhouse gas emission-free.

These North American strategies should also be helpful in setting some of the context for the development of Ontario's and Canada's approaches to carbon reduction and climate change action plans.

Some key quotes from the statement:

"We announce a historic goal for North America to strive to achieve 50 percent clean power generation by 2025. We will accomplish this goal through clean energy development and deployment, clean energy innovation and energy efficiency."

"Building from ongoing efforts by our respective energy ministers through the North American Energy Ministerial Memorandum Concerning Climate Change and Energy Collaboration, a range of initiatives will support this goal, including:..."

- *"Collaborating on cross-border transmission projects, including for renewable energy. At least six transmission lines currently proposed or in permitting review, such as the Great North Transmission Line, the New England Clean Power Link, and the Nogales Interconnection, would add approximately 5,000 megawatts (MW) of new cross-border transmission capacity...."*
- *"Conducting a joint study on the opportunities and impacts of adding more renewables to the power grid on a North American basis...."*
- *"To accelerate clean energy innovation, our energy researchers are identifying joint research and demonstration initiatives to advance clean technologies in priority areas such as smart grids and energy storage; reducing methane emissions; carbon capture, use and storage; **nuclear energy**; and advanced heating and cooling, including energy efficiency in building...."*

"Together, we estimate that the development of current and future projects and policies to achieve this goal will create thousands of clean jobs and support of our vision for a clean growth economy."

This announcement is a good step but many will still try to push and bully all levels of governments into making poor policy decisions that will be bad for PWU members and bad for Ontario's economy and environment.

Let Your Elected Representatives Know What You Think:

It never hurts to send an email or a note to your elected government representatives to let them know that you support the refurbishment of the Bruce and Darlington Stations, the extended operation of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station to 2025, and building 2 new units at the Darlington site.

Ontario's GHG free nuclear electricity generation supplies over 60 percent of the province's electricity. Canada's nuclear industry, centered in Ontario, is by far the largest contributor to

Ontario's greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and supports over 60,000 jobs.

Converting the idle coal stations at Nanticoke and Lambton to biomass and natural gas for peak supply makes use of Ontario grown resources, produces electricity on demand, extracts value from existing generation and transmission assets, and reduces GHG emissions.

These are all good policy directions for Ontario's economy and greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) strategy, and they should be supported by our elected policy makers.

PowerStream Bargaining Results in Numerous Improvements

With a merger/amalgamation coming quickly between PowerStream, Horizon Utilities, Enersource and Brampton Hydro, the PWU and PowerStream were faced with a challenging set of Collective Agreement negotiations.



Collective bargaining commenced in January of this year and 6 months later on June 10, after meetings with a Conciliation Officer from the Ministry of Labour and scheduling of mediation services prior to a legal strike/lockout date, the parties reached a tentative agreement that has now been ratified by the membership.

The negotiations took place against the backdrop of the MergeCo business plan that called for significant reductions of staff after the merger of PowerStream, Enersource and Horizon Utilities and the purchase of Brampton Hydro from the province.

The Collective Agreement duration will be 21 months to December 31, 2017. This allows time for the merger and acquisition to be approved and completed, post-merger employee representation issues to be resolved if necessary, and potentially, a consolidated collective agreement negotiated for all employees of the newly created MergeCo.

Some of the highlights of the new Collective Agreement:

- No take-aways
- Employment security and location security for full permanent employees
- Improved working conditions and seniority for temporary employees
- Expanded recognition clause to include all temporary employees in the Union
- Wage increases of 2.15 percent on April 1, 2016 and again on April 1, 2017
- Improved shift premiums
- An improvement to vacations
- Health benefit improvements
- Improvement to post-retirement benefits
- Improvement to maternity/parental leave top-up pay
- Improvement to controller pay treatment for training
- Improvement to number of System Controllers required in relief role

- Improvement to boot allowance
- Improvement to meal allowance
- Improvements to on-call pay
- Improvement to severance pay
- Improvement to selection process

Thanks to the PWU Bargaining Committee for a job well done!

Recommendations of the Jury in the Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Wayne Maschke

Excerpts from Ontario Coroner, John Carlisle's explanation of the verdict (recommendations) recently issued following the inquest hearing on May 2 and 3.



"Summary of the Circumstances of the Death:

On March 5, 2013 five workers employed by Hydro One Networks Inc. were performing work at a project located at 287 White Lake Road, Central Frontenac Township, Ontario.

The workers were in the process of replacing a regulating transformer at the Hinchinbrook Distribution Station at that location. At approximately 12:05 PM the workers were attempting to move a regulating transformer from one concrete pad to another using a technique known as "jack and roll".

The transformer was positioned on wooden rollers and was being moved horizontally with the use of come along winches and chains being operated by the workers. During this process the wooden roller became jammed under the 15 tonne regulator and the Foreman of the crew Wayne Maschke positioned himself under the mechanical box on the west side of the transformer to operate a jack in an attempt to raise the piece of equipment.

While he was operating the jack a piece of lumber blocking positioned under the jack broke and the jack slid out of position causing the transformer to tip over and land on Mr. Maschke. Emergency Medical Services were summoned and an ambulance, police and volunteer fire service attended. The deceased was pronounced dead by direction from the base hospital physician. A coroner was called and a post mortem examination was conducted.

The jury heard from 6 witnesses over 2 days, considered 4 exhibits and deliberated approximately 2 hours before reaching a verdict.

Recommendations:

To CUSW (Canadian Union of Skilled Workers) and Hydro One.

Hydro One and CUSW shall continue to work together to improve the safety culture where people take responsibility for themselves and each other, and are willing to speak out about

safety issues without reprimand or harassment.”

There were also several recommendations to Hydro One about effective planning of jobs including crew size, appropriate training and timely reviews of training programs and associated records, and assignment of appropriately trained people to the work at hand.

Four Long-Serving Chief Stewards Retire

There truly is a changing of the guard underway within the leadership of the PWU as Baby Boomers retire. On Wednesday June 8, retirement parties were held for four long-serving Chief Stewards: Maureen Skopeleanos (Pickering OPG), Sheldon Speedie (OPG Western Waste Management), Wayne Campbell (Hiring Hall North – Hydro One) and Brian Stratyчук (Electrical Safety Authority).

**Maureen
Skopeleanos**



In addition to her long tenure as Chief Steward, Maureen was also a Sector 1 Representative on the Executive Board and was a member of the PWU Bargaining Committees for OPG bargaining in 2012 and 2015.

Sheldon Speedie



Sheldon was elected to multiple terms as Chief Steward and was one of the PWU's key leaders in Health and Safety. Sheldon and his bluegrass band provided great entertainment at the 2015 Council of Chief Stewards Dinner and Dance.

Wayne Campbell



Wayne was one of the first Chief Stewards elected to represent PWU Hiring Hall members. He was elected to multiple terms and, to date, is the longest-serving Hiring Hall Chief Steward. Wayne has put a great deal of work into developing today's representation structure for Hiring Hall members at Hydro One.

Brian Stratychuk



Brian was a Chief Steward at the Electrical Safety Authority when it was split out from Ontario Hydro in 1998 and helped to guide PWU members through numerous rounds of collective bargaining and corporate restructurings.

We owe them much and on behalf of all PWU members, we thank Maureen, Sheldon, Wayne and Brian for their dedication and service to PWU members and wish them all long, healthy and happy retirements. They have certainly earned it!

Sunny Days at the PWU Charity Golf Tournament

The Power Workers' Union would like to thank all of those who participated in our 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at The Nottawasaga Inn on June 16th.



More than 390 attended and helped us to raise over \$45,900.00 for three great causes – the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at the Sunnybrook hospital, the Diabetes Hope Foundation and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

This was our most successful year yet. The prizes were better than ever and the weather cooperated beautifully with clear skies and summer-like temperatures reaching a high of 28 degrees. It was a great gathering connecting people from around the province who otherwise don't get to see each other very often.

A big congratulations to the winners of the tournament! The first place team on the Ridge Course was Brian Gronke, Darren Zoldy, Rhys Jenkins, and Andy Birnie. The winning team on the Briar Hill Course – Tanner Dockerty, Cole Wardlaw, Brett Preicept, and Randy Cox and on the Green Briar course the winners were Ron Callaghan, Tom Nicholls, Glenn Dawson, and Dave Watts.

A special thanks to our sponsors for helping to make this year's tournament so successful.

We hope to see you all again next year!



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JUNE 16th | NOTTAWASAGA INN

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