

November 2008



CUPE SUPPORTS BOYCOTT OF PETRO-CANADA

Local 175 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada was locked out at the Petro-Canada Montréal refinery on November 17, 2007.

As the one year anniversary approaches, with no sign of the company being willing to negotiate a fair collective agreement, the Canadian Labour Congress has called for a national boycott of Petro-Canada products.

CUPE wholeheartedly supports this boycott, and our 400 employees who use fleet vehicles to better service our members across regions will have a big impact.

Pattern bargaining has been the norm for more than 40 years in the oil and gas industry and continues everywhere today, except in Québec where Petro-Canada requested the 260 members of Local 175 in Montréal to accept a sub-standard contract much different than the pattern agreement.

Petro-Canada is seeking a collective agreement in Montréal that would facilitate a new capital project. CEP Local 175 has attempted to find a compromise solution with the company however Petro-Canada has refused steadfastly to provide recognition of the national bargaining pattern. The membership has rejected the company's final offer by a vote of 96.5%.

Petro-Canada continues to use scabs in violation of Québec labour law and has been able, through injunctions to limit picketing at work sites and to prohibit picketing at Petro-Canada gas stations.

Consumers are asked to:

- cancel their Petro-Canada credit cards
- avoid buying gas and heating oil from Petro-Canada wherever alternatives exist
- visit www.cupe.ca to email company President Ron Brenneman

A number of the members are young trade unionists with less than 5 years seniority, and are now facing severe hardship after such a lengthy dispute. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated.

You can send messages of support and financial assistance to:

CEP Local 175
c/o 301 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa Ontario
K1P 6M6

We urge all members to support the boycott, and not gas-up at Petro-Canada.

In solidarity,

PAUL MOIST
National President

CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer