



# The Conciliator

**UNIFOR** Local594 | Canada

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## Roots: Part 3

It has taken many decades to see a change in our Union and get to the point we are now. This has been done, not only by those in Union Executive positions, but by every person who hears the call of Solidarity. These are the people that respond knowing it is the way to make any change necessary for our Local 594 or by our union in total.

Neil Reimer remained Canadian director of the OCAW throughout the 1960's and 1970's. He became National Director of the Energy and Chemical Workers Union when it was formed from the OCAW in 1981. He retired from the Union's leadership in 1984, having fulfilled his purpose of bringing our union from a branch of an International Union, to a National entity beholdng to no other body than those of our Canadian locals. This was also the first amalgamation of Canadian unions that led to CEPU, and on to what is now Unifor.

You should be able to see that one man can make a huge difference over his lifetime. He effected the outcome of all our lives, with improved working conditions, wages, and benefits. He did this through negotiations with companies, who, from the labour of our members, make hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars.

All of our benefits have been fought for along the way. They directly benefit our Union members, but also indirectly effect the standard of living. An expectation of a higher standard has risen, not only for our members, but also for people out of the scope of our contract.

We have recently seen benefits removed from employees out of the scope of our contract. Fortunately, our in-scope members get to negotiate the benefits. So be aware and be diligent. They have already shown that they are coming. Only you can stop them. Are you going to rise up to the challenge?

Yours in Solidarity,  
John Sader  
Past Process Vice-President

◆ EXECUTIVE

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Amy Wisniewski (20)

Daryl Watch (21)

*Inside this issue:*

Roots: Part 3	1
Shutdown 2019	2
Bargaining Update	2

- Section IA:**  
Wade Schnell
- Section IB:**  
Charles Brittner
- Section II:**  
Chad Gettle
- Section III:**  
Curtis Baht & Kevin Geiger
- Section IV:**  
Ryan Jelinski
- Section V:**  
Chad Thompson & Andrew Murray
- Building Maintenance:**  
Gary Gruell
- MRP:**  
Derek Empringham
- Pipefitters:**  
Shaun Jenkins & Karl Dahle
- Mechanics:**  
Derek Kups & Pete Thorsen
- Stores:**  
Dallas Allen & Nathan Fafard
- Electrical:**  
Les Bonkowski
- Instrumentation:**  
Jaret McCloy & Dave Mushynsky
- Inspection:**  
Keith Britton
- Fire & Safety:**  
Daryl Watch
- Lab:**  
Scott Weber
- Pumpers:**  
Ryan Dzioba
- Decokers:**  
Jon Javorik
- Welders:**  
Scott Wickland
- Scaffolders:**  
Nelson Wagman
- Construction:**  
Mike Pelzer
- Boilerhouse:**  
Matt Wason
- Insulators:**  
Luke McGeough & Brandon Mang
- PDD Office:**  
Andrew Fowlow
- PDD Loading:**  
Dylan Bailey & Justin Farrant
- Packing & Blending,**
- Warehouse:**  
(vacant)
- Administration:**  
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## Shutdown 2019

As sure as the snow melts, every year whether we like it or not, turnaround comes. We know as employees of CRC that we are an essential part of it. Our experience and understanding of the units and equipment make us the most important piece of the turnaround puzzle.

Even though the contractors have been given a large portion of our work, our membership is still the key to making it safe, on time, and efficient. Without the operators, fire and safety, maintenance, and stores working side by side with contractors the shutdown would not be successful. It could be more effective if we included those workers who previously came from other parts of the plant and brought their knowledge and experience with them, however, as you all know they are kept out because of the company's disagreement with what Letter of Understanding 61 means. Their experience is wasted, while they are sitting on the sidelines.

We are integral in making sure turnaround is completed safely and on time. This time of year it is important to remember what matters most in our lives. We need to work safely for our families and our co-workers. We need to keep our minds on the task at hand even though there are many distractions. By working hard and safe we prove our worth to the cooperative system, even though our worth is being questioned at every turn.

They want more from us in every way, they want to slash our pay and our benefits. I ask of you sisters and brothers do not let them wear on you! In fact, during this high stress time where we spend many hours away from our families, you can ignore their negativity entirely. We are in charge of our own fate and our actions. We will prove our worth, not because we must, but because it comes naturally.

Work safely and efficiently for yourself, your family, and your colleagues. We will take the high ground and succeed because of it. It is our strength as a Union that will allow us to be triumphant in our collective struggle for fairness and equality. Even though the times ahead seem troubling, they will only serve to build our solidarity and help to ensure our future as the primary work force at the Co-op Refinery for years to come.

In Solidarity,  
Jason Kelly, Maintenance Vice-President

## Bargaining Update

March 27th and 28th were continued bargaining dates. Once again, some small items were agreed upon.

There will be an extended break before the next set of meeting dates, as we focus on the upcoming 2019 Turnaround. Next meeting dates are scheduled for May 22nd and 23rd.