



Providing information by email to our members and fellow unionists

## ILWU Canada **Waterfront eNews**

Official e-newsletter publication of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada

July 29, 2016

Greetings brothers and sisters,

I'm sure many of you have heard of last week's arrests of Rob Ford (former secretary treasurer of Local 502) and his wife Teresa.

This will bring to a close a tragic time in my home local's history. Many lessons are learned the hard way. We had to learn that although most of our union members and executive are hard-working and honest, that does not excuse us from putting the proper safeguards in place to prevent incidences of fraud. Those safeguards are in place now and the local is better for it.

The loss of our members hard earned dues is sad but sadder still is that a once trusted member our union had the opportunity to tarnish the name of our great union. In the end justice will be done and the local and the union can move on, stronger from what we have learned.

It reminds us that everything we do reflects back on our union. Take pride in your work and take pride that you belong to the **ILWU**. Everything we have today took many years and many hard fought battles to get, nothing was ever handed to us. The fight is never over.

This incident also reminds us to stay involved in our locals, go meetings, ask question and be a part of the this great organization. When we ignore and neglect our union, we ignore and neglect the thing that make us strong. Only together do we stand a chance against the forces that are rallied against us.

In solidarity

**Bob Dhaliwal**

**Secretary Treasurer**

**ILWU Canada**

Those who have not read the original story and do so at the link below.

<http://vancouversun.com/news/crime/former-b-c-union-official-wife-charged-with-stealing-1-7-million>



# MEDIA RELEASE

News from the International Transport Workers' Federation

25 July 2016.

## **Global union leaders personally investigate victimisation of South Korean trade unionists**

Global union leaders will be in court in Seoul tomorrow (26 July), to witness the latest in a series of unjust trials of South Korean union leaders. They will then report on what they have seen directly outside the building.

Cho Sung-deok, vice-president of the KPTU (Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union), is expected to be sentenced at 10:00 tomorrow 26 July at the Seoul Central District Court House (Room 506), 157 Seocho-Jungangro, Seocho-gu Seoul. Leaders of the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) and representatives of other trade unions will give an impromptu press conference outside the court immediately afterwards (expected to be at 10:30). Journalists and photographers are invited to attend.

The ITF's president, general secretary and assistant general secretary are visiting South Korea to observe the legal process and to visit, and offer support to other unjustly imprisoned union leaders and their families.

Cho Sung-deok is the latest person to be sentenced in relation to involvement in the mass people's mobilisation on 14 November 2015 - the suppression of which by police who used 20,000 officers, 19 water cannon, 679 buses, and 580 pepper spray devices against peaceful marchers - has escaped censure in the courts trying other union leaders. (See <http://goo.gl/86ESaF> for more details). Just two weeks ago Han Sang-gyun, president of the KCTU union centre was sentenced to five years imprisonment on similar charges.

The presence of the ITF president, general secretary and assistant general secretary shows how grave the organisation considers the situation is. ITF president **Paddy Crumlin** stated: "Any prison sentence against this man would be unjust. Other trade unionists have received sentences of three or five years. Such a term would be

unbelievably harsh, an attack not just on Cho Sung-deok as an individual, but on the entire Korean union movement for daring to expect to be able to engage in lawful trade union activities and to enjoy the inalienable right to freedom of assembly."

Speaking about the trial so far Mr Crumlin added: "It's difficult to know where to begin to list the problems in the trials against union leaders. But how about the way the judges have condoned the heavily organised police suppression of the rally?"

ITF general secretary **Steve Cotton** added: "This court case is part of a wider crackdown on the democratic labour movement in Korea which is clearly designed to punish unions for their legitimate opposition to the government's planned labour reforms. That fight will continue, with transport workers and their unions at the centre of the struggle, including potential strikes in rail and road transport later this year. Transport unions and their unions are helping to lead the resistance, with the admiration and guaranteed support of the entire ITF worldwide."

Other global union leaders have echoed the call for justice and an end to the persecution of Korean trade unions.

Jyrki Raina, general secretary of IndustriALL Global Union, added: "We need to fight back against the continued repression of legitimate trade union activities in Korea and we urge the government to immediately drop the charges."

Rosa Pavanelli, general secretary of PSI (Public Services International), commented: "In Korea we are witnessing a purge worthy of a dictatorial regime, in which the government imprisons any dissenting voice that opposes its one-dimensional view of the world. The trial against vice president Cho and other union members is a proof of that. If today trade unionists are the main target, be sure that tomorrow others will follow. The world needs to acknowledge this and act now."

Ambet Yuson, general secretary of BWI (Building and Wood Workers' International), stated: "Cho Sung-deok is being prosecuted for speaking out against labour reforms that will impact the lives of South Korean workers and their families. This prosecution is part of a larger attack on the entire trade union movement in the country. In June of this year 15 leaders of the tower crane branch of the Korean Construction Workers' Union were found guilty under criminal charges for simply engaging in collective bargaining negotiations. Instead of attacking workers for exercising their fundamental democratic rights, the government should investigate and act against the brutal over-violence exercised by the police. We must all stand up against this witchhunt of trade union leaders in South Korea and crackdown on workers' rights."

You can follow this story on Twitter using the hashtag #UnionRightsKorea.

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2016 Jul 26

## **Port of Churchill layoffs could devastate northern Manitoba economy**

35 workers laid off, more expecting notices in coming days  
By Bryce Hoyer, CBC News

Layoffs at the Port of Churchill could have a devastating effect on the local economy and leave northern workers in a lurch if no solution is found soon, the provincial agriculture minister and Churchill's member of Parliament say. News that dozens of workers at the port have been laid off shocked residents in Churchill on Monday.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents Port of Churchill workers, said 35 employees have been laid off. Dozens more who had hoped to get seasonal work also learned they won't be called in, Mayor Mike Spence said Monday.

OmniTrax has not yet commented on the layoffs. The Denver-based company is Churchill's largest employer and has owned and operated the port and Hudson Bay rail line since 1997.

PSAC said the port employs 10 per cent of the local population of around 800 people.

Teresa Eschuk, vice-president of the union's local chapter, said OmniTrax "blindsided" workers and hasn't been communicating with union representatives.

"The Port of Churchill is not just a place of work but an integral part of the town," Eschuk said. "The possible closure of the port could mean the end for a struggling northern community."

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## **Your job is killing you; Researchers catalogue the clearest proof yet that overwork has a direct and negative impact on your health**

Jeff Guo, Washington Post

For decades now, the modern worker has been urged to slow down, chill out, destress. Doctors link long shifts and on-the-job anxiety to high blood pressure, heart disease, depression and stroke. Many believe the consequences can be fatal. In Japan, the government compensates families who lose loved ones to employment-related exhaustion or suicide. The Japanese call this phenomenon *karoshi*, or death by overwork.

Yet, so far, the connection between job strain and bad health has mostly been correlational -

we haven't known if stressful jobs directly cause our health to deteriorate. Surveys show that people who work more are more likely to suffer from hypertension and more likely to experience a stroke. The plausible biological explanation: Both of these health problems are symptoms of stress and sleep deprivation.

But what if it wasn't the job's fault? What if naturally obsessive or anxious people gravitate to occupations where they are forced to work too much? What if the people who volunteer for overtime only do it because they need the money to solve some other crisis in their life? The connection between bad health and overwork, as common-sense as it seems, is cloudy.

Recently, economists at Purdue and the University of Copenhagen made a clever attempt to clear up the question. They looked at Danish manufacturing companies where overseas sales increased unexpectedly due to changes in foreign demand or transportation costs between 1996 and 2006. These constituted a set of natural experiments. At firms where exports spiked, there was suddenly a lot more work to do, a lot more things to sell. This put the squeeze on employees, who became measurably more productive - but also started to suffer more health problems.

"The medical literature typically finds that people who work longer hours have worse health outcomes - but we try to distinguish between causality and correlation," said Chong Xiang, an economics professor at Purdue and coauthor on the paper, along with David Hummels and Jakob Munch. A draft was released this week by the National Bureau for Economic Research.

This kind of study could only be done in a place like Denmark, where the single-payer health-care system keeps track of everyone's doctor's visits and drug purchases. Researchers found that women at companies where there was an export boom were subsequently more likely to be treated for severe depression, and more likely to take prescription medication for heart attack or stroke. For both men and women, there was also an increase in severe on-the-job injuries.

The health impact was related to how much pressure the company faced. If external forces caused a company's exports to rise by, say, 10 per cent, female employees were about 2.5 per cent more likely to be treated for severe depression, and 7.7 per cent more likely to take heart attack or stroke drugs. For context, about 4 per cent of women overall were being treated for severe depression and 1 per cent of women were on heart attack or stroke medication. These conditions are not very common, but job strain caused a measurable, statistically significant bump in prevalence. The researchers aren't sure why men weren't measurably affected, but it could have something to do with the fact that women are at higher risk in general for stroke or depression in their lifetimes. And the men could have been sicker in other ways that the researchers couldn't observe.

At companies that experienced the biggest increases in exports, the rate of serious injury also went up. These were on-the-job accidents severe enough to merit an insurance payout from the Danish government. (Such cases are rare, about four in one thousand workers.) If you sorted companies by how big of an export boost they experienced, and focused on the top 25 per cent, these exceptionally busy firms saw a 28 per cent increase in severe injuries - which translates into about one extra serious injury per thousand workers. **Most of these injuries seemed to be concentrated in positions involving physical labour, not white-collar work.**

The researchers also found interesting patterns involving sick days. At most

firms, employees started taking fewer sick days after business picked up, which indicates that they felt pressured to come in even if they weren't feeling well.

But at companies that became exceptionally busy - companies that enjoyed an export boost ranking in the top 25 per cent - the number of sick days per person actually increased, by 14 per cent for men and 24 per cent for women. At these places, it seems the pressure was too much and the overwork made people too sick to come in. (The researchers focused on sick days that occurred in conjunction with a doctor's visit or a drug prescription.)

We should always be careful of studies that so neatly confirm our assumptions, but here the conclusion aligns with decades of medical research hinting at similar things. We've known for a while that overwork and job stress is associated with poor health; it was just unethical to run an experiment to prove that one causes the other.

In this case, we can blame (or thank) the invisible hand for doing the dirty work. The more or less random fluctuations in foreign economies provided an opportunity to observe what happens when people suddenly get a lot busier at work.

Though this study focused on the Danish manufacturing sector, it covered both blue and white collar workers, so the results seem generalizable enough: **Working too hard has health consequences. Our jobs really are killing us.**

July 21, 2016

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## FIGHT FOR \$15 Minimum Wage



It is time to increase the minimum wage and address income inequality in BC.

At \$10.45/hr BC's minimum wage is one of the lowest in Canada. As the cost of living continues to go up, workers earning minimum wage cannot make ends meet.

BC's minimum wage leaves full-time workers living below the poverty line.

The BC Federation of Labour believes that work should lift you out of poverty. It's time for the BC government to increase the minimum wage so that nobody is left behind.

Help us fight for \$15/hr. It's only fair!

[Sign the petition!](#)

[Click the image below to visit the Fight For \\$15 website.](#)

# FIGHT FOR 15

## Western Transportation Advisory Council



**WESTAC** is a non-profit society of major transportation organizations in Western Canada represented by business, labour, and government decision-makers. The ILWU is a founding member and holds two positions on the Executive Board, one is ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton and the other through the ILWU Affiliate in Saskatchewan the Grain Services Union General Secretary Hugh Wagner.

[Click here for the weekly information package we receive from Westac, with links to many interesting articles that relate to transportation.](#)

### **WESTAC Info Service July 16 to 22, 2016**

#### **Bulk Products**

Bin-busting Canada wheat, canola crops raise pile-up fears: Reuters poll - Reuters

#### **Economics and Trade**

Think tanks differ on proposed pipelines' economic viability - Business in Vancouver

'Oasis Of Stability' Canada Has The World's Best Debt - Huffington Post Canada

Something Stirring in Singapore? - EDC

#### **Energy**

How the Trudeau government tore up the rulebook on pipelines - Canadian Business Magazine

No, the world isn't converting to green energy; Low fossil fuel costs slowing change, writes Jock Finlayson - Windsor Star

#### **Environment**

Electric cars not always greenest choice - Times Colonist (Victoria)

#### **Marine**

Condos and Industry Battle It Out in Vancouver's Red-Hot Real Estate Boom - Bloomberg

US box ports lose market share to rivals in Canada and Mexico - Lloyds Loading List

Northwest Seaport Alliance - Berth of a Mega Port - American Journal of Transportation On-Line

### **Trucking**

Understanding Intermodal and Truckload Spot Market Pricing - Global Trade Magazine

## **Waterfront News**

### **Reminder**

The Waterfront News is the newsletter produced by ILWU Canada and mailed to members several times per year. The Dispatcher is the newsletter produced by our International Union and is also mailed to members several times per year. ILWU Canada keeps an address database for both of these, but we only receive addresses from the Locals or the Members directly.



**[Copies of past editions of the Waterfront News are available here:](#)**

**[Copies of past editions of the Dispatcher are available here:](#)**

If you are a Member of the ILWU in Canada, or on the A or B boards in any of the Longshore Locals you are entitled to receive one or both of these. If you are not receiving it now you should contact your Local to make sure they have your current address.

You can also send us an e-mail at [communicate@ilwu.ca](mailto:communicate@ilwu.ca) or phone us at 604-254-8141 to update us.





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