
Regional Report 2011-05

I have been out of town for 10 of the past 12 days. I attended the Area Operation Consultation Meeting (AOCM) in St. John's. The AOCM is a series of meetings hosted by Transport Canada and Nav Canada for discussions with the users. While there I was also able to have some face to face meetings with Nav Canada managers.

Next trip was to Ottawa for the bargaining session. An update on that has been sent and is available on the website also. While in Ottawa I took some time to visit the members working at 77 Metcalfe, but apologize to those that I missed. Catch you next time hopefully. I expect to be in Ottawa again mid-January and late February.

After Ottawa I travelled to Toronto for the CAW Council. I took advantage of this trip to visit St. Catharines and London as well as Toronto ACC. I would have liked to have had more time but appreciate the discussions I did have with the members at those sites.

The CAW Council started on Friday. I expect an update on the proceedings to be on CAW website soon. I thought I would mention a couple things though. First is the new CAW Transportation Paper. The paper is setting a direction, and asking government to do the same, for Canadian transportation needs going forward. Another issue is the CETA negotiations between Canada and the European Union. Part of this agreement removes the right for provinces and towns to set Canadian content rules for procurement. Many CAW members could be affected by this. As union members, it would help if you took some time to check into this and raised concerns with your local politicians.

One other interesting item was a speech by author Linda McQuaig. I thought particularly interesting was her discussion around distribution of wealth. Not so long ago the top paid CEOs earned 25 times the salaries of their workers, now that is more like 250 times. Just something to ponder...

Before I go, please note that I have a new phone number. I was tying up my home phone too much. I am now available at 709-651-1545 (w) or 709-235-1545 (c). Please update your contact information.

In solidarity,

Blaine Mills

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