

Wednesday, 2nd December 2009

To: Unite branch chairs and workplace representatives,

Following the Unite National Sector Conferences in Brighton last week, we are writing to you in relation to the Workers Uniting campaign to support of the Canadian miners who are currently on strike at Vale Inco.

During the conference most delegates were able to meet with, and hear about the experiences from representatives of Vale Inco miners who have now been on strike for over five months. The miners addressed most of the sector conferences where they outlined the background to their dispute and explained the importance of their fight against a Brazilian multi-national which is using 'scab' labour to try to break their trade union organisation.

From the start of their campaign, through the global union Workers Uniting, Unite has been supporting the campaign to protect the terms and conditions and pensions of the 3,000 miners who are members of our sister union, the United Steelworkers (USW). Unite has members in Vale Inco plants in the UK (in Swansea and Acton) and we anticipate that their employer will turn on them next, if they are successful in breaking the strike in Canada.

We attach, for your information, a letter from the USW miners which outlines the importance of their campaign. More details of their campaign 'A Fair Deal Now' can be found at: www.workersuniting.org/valeinco

With the festive season fast approaching, Unite knows that difficult times lie ahead for our brothers and sisters in Canada. Our union will stand in solidarity with the miners and their families. The union is determined to fight on, so that these workers are not starved back to work, and their employer is not successful in its attempt to destroy their terms and conditions.

It gives us great pride to say that Unite activists from each sector of the union were generous enough to give a significant donation to the USW strike fund. There was in the region of £5,000 donated over the five-day duration of conference.

We are writing to you to ask your branch or workplace to consider making a financial contribution and also to send a message of solidarity to the miners' strike fund. This money will not only help the workers through the difficult financial times they now face, but will also boost the morale of the colleagues to know that comrades from Unite are standing shoulder to shoulder with them.

All contributions will be very much appreciated.

Please send cheques addressed to:

The United Steelworkers

This should be sent to:

Saba Mozakka, Unite

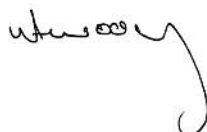
35 King Street, London WC2E 8JG

If you would like any more information on the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our colleague who is co-ordinating our work with Workers Uniting: Richard O'Brien.

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Telephone: 07768 931 320

Regards,



Derek Simpson and Tony Woodley,
Joint General Secretaries