

Communications Committee Report

June 19, 2011

Progress continues on the Spring/Summer Newsletter which should be distributed in July.

The key stories concern pensions, foreign ownership, and employer monitoring of employees.

There will be two pension stories; one on the forces inside and outside MTS that are undermining retirement security, and the second about the attitudes of new TEAM members to their MTS DC pension plan. Seven TEAM members have been interviewed for this article. A third pension story, an ED report on the pension lawsuit probably will not be included in this issue as there is no new news about the appeal yet.

There will be three stories on foreign ownership. The first is an update on changes to the present legislation (none yet, but the positions of the affected parties made clearer), the second is a troubling profile of the new industry minister, Christian Paradis who will be making the decisions about telecommunications ownership policy, and the third is about the provincial legislation that affects MTS, and the positions of the three provincial parties. We have asked the Premier, the leader of the Conservative Party, and the leader of the Liberal party for their comments, to be included in the issue.

Roland Pokarny has contributed an interesting article on employer monitoring of employees, pointing out the legal issues posed by new media and the indistinct boundaries of public and private life.

Cindy Harasymiw has taken photos for the Foreign Ownership and the Employer Monitoring stories. The articles and photos so far are all on the dark side, so the issue will also include some lighter member interest photos of the Hot Dog day.

Robert Creemer, from the Huffington Post has also given us permission to reprint his excellent article *Why We Need Unions More than Ever*.

We still have space for another story or two. Additional contributions or notices welcome.

Stephen Gillies
Communications Committee Chair