

Former Chippin employees ineligible for UIC benefits

by KAYE MacPHEE
Brunswickan staff

"I find it immoral, it is the opposite to what is supposed to be going on," said Laurel Walton, regarding Employment and Immigration Canada.

Walton, President of Local 1288P of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said "On the one hand the government gives us the right to strike and on the other they send strike breakers to cross a legal picket line under threat of losing their UIC benefits."

Walton represents the 130 full time workers at Chippin Brothers who are involved in a seven week long labour dispute.

Gilberte Babin, Assistant Manager of Canada Employment Center in Kings Place said that people who are referred to Chippins are made aware that there is a strike.

Babin said that those who are referred to Chippins but refuse to go because of the labour dispute are not in danger of losing their UIC benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Act states that recipients who refuse to be referred to a job solely on the grounds of a labour dispute cannot have their UIC benefits withdrawn.

Chippin's part time workers are not members of the UFCW. They are ineligible to join the

union because of their part time status.

Babin said "I do not like to discuss this in the open. Some of them are considered to be on strike, therefore, ineligible for UIC."

Some former Chippin part time workers have been refused UIC and some have not said Babin. "Some have received a letter from us that they are ineligible," she said.

"It depends on their situation - how long they've worked there - were they doing the same work as the workers on strike, things like that," Babin said.

To clarify Babin said "For example, suppose an ex-Zellers employee on UIC looks at the job board and asks to be referred to Chippins. After deciding he does not want to go due to the strike he cannot be refused UIC in that situation. Former part-time employees of Chippin's is a completely different story."

The reason said Babin is "They are likely to benefit from the strike. Say the full time workers get a raise of \$3.00 an hour. The part time workers will benefit. That is one view of that." The regional office in Moncton made the decision as to which workers were and were not eligible for UIC benefits.

Walton said "Some of the strike breakers have told me that their UIC would be cut off if they did not go to work at Chippin Brothers."

Other applicants were given a form which stated they'd be ineligible for UIC if they didn't cross the picket line said Walton.

Bill Parsons, President of the Federation of Labour for Newfoundland and full time representative of UFCW said that "This is standard across Canada under UIC regulations. I think it's discriminatory but this is not isolated. What UIC is

doing is hiring strike breakers....The UIC can use anybody and do it under duress, by denying the workers benefits."

Paul Gallant, Plant Manager of Chippins said "Part timers are not being referred by UIC. We call in the former part timers."

The key issues in the dispute are wage increases for full time employees and rights and

benefits for the approximately 40 part time workers.

The employees have asked for a two year contract with a 6 and 5 wage increase. The company has offered a three year contract with a 0 percent increase in the first year, a 0 percent increase in the second year, and a 3 percent increase in the third year said Gallant.

STU Council

may call for Toner's resignation

by KAYE MacPHEE
Brunswickan staff

Kathy Wright, Saint Thomas University SRC comptroller made a notice of motion calling for the resignation of the editor of *The Aquinian*, Neil Toner.

No reasons for the move were stated. Greg Davis, SRC president said "there is no discussion on a notice of motion when it is made."

"The notice gives the person concerned a chance to prepare a defence, though there are holes in that because they don't know what they're defending," said Davis.

Davis is uncertain as to what reasons are behind the motion, though he thinks it might have "to do with constitutional violations."

Wright said, "the reasons will be given at the next meeting. You know them as well as anyone else."

Toner said he wasn't surprised by the motion. "Council has already had a motion to revoke the constitution of *The Aquinian*. I thought it was just a matter of time before they began to make this dispute very personal."

Toner went to his representative on council, Tom Isaac, to find out what the reason was for the motion being proposed. "He told me that he spoke to Kathy Wright and she said the main reason



was that *The Aquinian* had continued to run Campus Press ads as well as stating in the paper that we supported the Canadian University Press statement of principles," said Toner.

"I've said all along that our involvement with CUP is a legal issue. I've been informed by CUP that the executive of CUP has decided to investigate the dispute between *The Aquinian* and the SRC," said Toner.

The investigating committee will consist of a panel of three; a member of the CUP executive, a member of a CUP member paper in the region, and a member of the local media.

Toner said "The purpose of the committee is to hear from all parties involved in the dispute, to try to mediate in

the dispute itself, and to report back to CUP with the findings and recommendations of the committee."

"Ethically their decision should be binding on the SRC and perhaps even legally," said Toner.

Toner has informed Davis of the investigation. "I think the SRC has a responsibility to meet with this panel and explain their position, especially when you consider that legal action against the Student Union is a possibility," said Toner.

"Overall I feel that my integrity has been wrongly questioned by a member of the SRC through an introduction of such a motion. If for some reason I am forced out of the editorship of *The Aquinian* it would be an unjust reflection on my reputation," said Toner.

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