

## **Superstore and Safeway Union members poised to fight to improve Industry: Union Power Shows in Fort McMurray!**

As Safeway employees prepare to take strike votes, the Alberta Government Department of Mediation has appointed a mediator for Superstore negotiations involving Fort McMurray. That mediation process, under Alberta Law, must precede a strike vote. The good news, however, is that the allowance of this mediation process will open the door for a strike vote in McMurray, and perhaps ultimately at other Superstores as well. McMurray employees strongly support the concept of striking Superstore if necessary.

Superstore and Safeway Union members have effectively joined together in the battle to improve each others working conditions. A better contract at Safeway could mean a better Superstore agreement – and vice versa. The retail industry, complaining about a “labour shortage” needs to learn that the real shortage is among workers who are willing to work for poor wages and working conditions. Safeway and Superstore management, it would seem are working closely to suppress their employees. Senior officials obviously communicate, bargaining positions are similar, and they both lobby the government to make bad labour laws worse. As individual companies their power is enormous, joined together, they are frightening. Company lock outs are even a possibility.

But Union solidarity is growing. Calls for additional Union funding are gathering support among our members. Some are ready to quit but others are saying let's fight back!

If someone dumps pollution in your river, you don't move, you fix the situation. Many Safeway and Superstore workers, won't quit, they will fix their workplaces.