

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF Boilermakers LOCAL 128 ONTARIO



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Over the past month or more, our Local has been involved in a controversy which came to a head when there was a serious physical assault on two elected officers at our offices during a meeting of the Local 128 Executive Board. Police were called and charges were laid against the former Business Manager of the Local. The case is awaiting trial.

Following this incident, the Local Executive Board requested that our Local be placed under temporary trusteeship, although the Local Executive Board remains intact and the Local's day-to-day business is being conducted as usual.

The former Business Manager has allied himself with the Ontario-specific Brick and Allied Craft Union (Bricklayers), which is now trying to persuade our members to sign Bricklayers union cards and thereby force a change of union for our members. If this group succeeds, you will no longer be represented by Boilermakers Local 128 but will be a member of a division of this bricklayers' union.

This is an important decision for you and your entire family. Leaving Boilermakers Local 128 for the Bricklayers will have a very definite effect on the amount of work you can get, the amount you will be paid, your benefits and your pension – things which will affect you for the rest of your life.

As is the case in all raids, there will be a lot of confusion. There will be claims that will not stand the test of scrutiny. There will be bad feelings between some members. Families of members, whether working or retired, will be affected — even the little Boilermakers of the future.

It's obvious there had been some advance preparation and planning among those who are leading this breakaway move. Be that as it may, we are dedicated to ensuring that you also get Local 128's side of the story.

For that reason, your Local officers will be holding membership meetings at locations across the province over the next several weeks. We will make a presentation on why it is important to your future to remain a member of Boilermakers Local 128. We will clear up some very serious misconceptions. We will listen to your questions and comments, and answer them to the best of our ability and with full transparency.

It is very important that you attend one of the meetings which will be coming to your area over the next few weeks. The schedule and locations are listed below. We hope to see you there and look forward to a real discussion of this important issue.

For your own sake, please do not sign any union card until you have had a chance to attend one of our meetings. Signing a Bricklayers card has some very real, negative consequences. At the very least, I think you owe it to yourself to investigate the Bricklayers' claims before you make a commitment that could change your working life and your family's future.

You'll be hearing more from your Local in the weeks and months ahead, and we invite you to contact us if there is any further information you need.

Wishing you a happy and successful new year,

Yours fraternally & in solidarity,

REG WHITE
International Brotherhood of
Boilermakers Local 128