



AUGUST 2008 WEBSITE REPORT

WINDSOR ENGINE

IDILING OF THE ANNEX/L.V.L.

On behalf of the entire union office I would like to welcome all Local 200 members who were transferred from the Annex/L.V.L. to W.E.P. It was very disappointing that the company chose to idle the Annex/L.V.L. and I know it will be a big adjustment for everyone coming from a plant with lower line speed and in the case of L.V.L. a steady shift as well as smaller machining depts. But with the history of Local 200 workforce I believe that once everyone gets adjusted we will all pull together and make the W.E.P. successful in this very important launch.

STATE OF THE PLANT

As of this writing the running pattern for W.E.P. engine line is as follows. Effective the week of September 15/08 the #2 shift will work 5 days a week and the #3 shift will only run 3 days a week the reason for this is management wants to stretch the 6.8 litre and 5.4 2 valve production out over 5 days so they can complete the run on the #2 shift as these engines require more people to build them. Also as of this writing the following down weeks are scheduled September 29, November 24, and the week of December 22. The machining Depts. schedule will be adjusted depending on how much float they have but they will also be off during the down weeks. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ANY OF THESE DOWN DAYS OR DOWN WEEKS COULD BE CHANGED AT ANY GIVEN TIME!!!!**

Also effective September 29 engine assemblies build schedule was suppose to be reduced from 2240 down to 2040 but the company is indicating that this will be on hold until further notice. When they decide to take this action there will be approximately 22 jobs reduced and at this time they have not concluded what jobs will be cut.

ESSEX ENGINE ANNOUNCEMENT

On September 3/08 we finally received some good news for the Windsor Site. Stephan Harper came into town with a bag full of money \$80 Million dollars to be exact and gave it to Ford Motor Company for the re-opening of the Essex Engine Plant. Along with the re-opening of Essex will come a state of the art Research and Development Centre. This will be very helpful in producing technology that will be in the engines of the future. This is great news for Local 200 members as well as the community. With this announcement we could eventually see employment reach up to 700 people.

The only question that needs to be asked is the timing of Stephen Harpers announcement? I do not believe it was a coincidence that he showed up with the money, then five days later dissolved the Government and calls an election. If he thinks that this makes up for all his inaction on the manufacturing crises and huge loss of manufacturing jobs throughout this country, he is sadly mistaken. **HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS NOT FAIR TRADE AGREEMENTS AND STILL HAS DONE NOTHING IN CREATING AN AUTO AND AUTO PARTS STRATEGY TO HELP PROTECT CANADIANS JOBS. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CITIZENS OF CANADA NOT JUST BIG BUSINESS.**

In Solidarity,
Jeff Vilag
Plant Chairperson
Windsor Engine