

Presidents Report - Jan. 25, 2010

By now you are aware of the layoffs at Rogers Citytv stations with the biggest hit being at our Toronto location. Your Rogers negotiating committee has been meeting with management since Tuesday Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> to help our members through the layoff process. It goes without saying that there have been bumps in the process and more to come as members are challenged on job qualifications and seniority dates are adjusted. Some of our members have elected to take voluntary separation packages there by allowing a more junior member to remain employed. As a result we will be saying good bye to some long time employees who are brothers and sisters who have been around since the beginning of this union local. We wish all of those leaving the best in their future endeavors.

I thought I would have a lot of strong words for Rogers and their contribution to the erosion of Local Canadian programming, but there are so many others out there in the Media saying it so much better. It was only a little over a year ago that this Local was hit by a large number of CTV Ltd. layoffs that had many Canadian programs removed from the MuchMusic and MuchMore networks. All of the programs were replaced with purchased American programming a trend in this industry that Rogers seems to like as well. Our members saw the writing on the wall when in the past months they didn't produce a 6 o'clock news package because it was more profitable for Rogers to air American football in it's place, disgraceful.

The Local Executive will be working in the coming months to evaluate the impact of these layoffs and will report to the members at a General Membership Meeting, most likely this March.

Negotiations for both Rogers and CTV are continuing. Talks with Rogers will be delayed as they work through the layoff procedures and CTV talks won't begin until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our current collective agreements will remain in effect until new agreements are signed.

It's sad to admit that our future in the television media is very uncertain. The only people interested in making good Canadian programming are the workers. Owners can purchase programming from the U.S. and are concerned only about profits while the government and the CRTC shrugs their responsibility to the Canadian people, again disgraceful.

Kelly Dobbs

President