

AVIATION WORKERS ACTION CENTRE

CENTRE D'ACTION PUR LES TRAVAILLEURS D'AVIATION

NEWSLETTER

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3000 Aviation Workers Lose Their Jobs

The closure of Canada 3000's airline operations was the impetus for discussions about the need for a Toronto-based adjustment project that would address the needs of the work force in the industry, most especially the many workers who have been displaced or whose jobs are threatened by the continuing upheaval in the industry.

The negative impacts for workers, their families and their communities can be minimized with the commitment of resources and government funding for workforce adjustment.

The uncertainty in this industry will continue through the years 2002 and 2003. The International Labour Organization met in late January to specifically discuss the crisis and ways to ameliorate its harshest effects on the industry's workers.

Thousands have lost their jobs in this recent crisis. At Toronto's Pearson Airport almost 3,000 workers have been displaced or taken "exit packages" that often lead to unwelcome retirements. All of these workers

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GRAND OPENING!!



The Aviation Workers Action Centre will be having it's Grand Opening ceremonies on Monday April 22nd, 2002. Media coverage will be arranged for this event including the local TV stations, and reporters from our local newspapers. It is expected they will arrive at 10:00 a.m. It is our hope that you plan to arrive prior to that time as well.

Amongst our guest speakers we will have Judy Darcy from CUPE, Buz Hargrove from CAW and Dave Ritchie from IAM.

The Centre is located at 215 Carlingview Drive, Unit 303 and is open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday's 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come in and register a resume with us and use the facilities that are available for your use.

To find out all about what is happening at the centre you can also check out our web site at www.aviationactioncentre.org.

3000 Aviation Workers Lose Their Jobs /3000 Travailleurs Perdents Leur Emploi

confront a weak labour market – one in which the job prospects are far and few between and those that do exist are often the “bad” jobs characterized by part-time hours, short-term contracts and casual status. Most industry workers will have little in the way of personal savings to survive on, at a time when there are fewer income and employment support programs than at any time in recent history.

The goal of this project is to help industry workers become successfully reemployed in stable, well paying jobs. The adjustment program will meet a full range of short and medium-term adjustment needs, including assistance for laid-off workers who are seeking immediate reemployment and/or educational and skills upgrading.

The CAW, together with CUPE and the IAM, proposed an adjustment project jointly funded by the federal and provincial governments, in addition to in-kind contributions from the unions. Airline unions participated in an adjustment program following on the recession of the early 1990s. The need is certainly no less now than it was then.

The yearlong project will be overseen by a joint Adjustment Committee, which will include laid-off workers. This Committee, in consultation with government adjustment advisors, will determine a range of services, supports and programs to meet the needs of displaced and job-threatened workers in the industry. Planned for the coming months will be workshops to better assist the displaced workers.

The Centre Coordinators and who they Are

There are three coordinators for the centre with diverse backgrounds. Ian Connor, used to work for Air Canada as a Station Attendant, and comes to the centre from the IAM group. Antonella Rosa Gemmiti, was employed by Canada 3000 as a Passenger Services Agent for 4 years, and comes to the centre from the CAW group. Anabela Santos was a Flight Attendant with Canada 3000 for 11 years and comes to us from the CUPE group.

They have been given training on how to deal with the many difficulties that people face when they are unemployed or under employed, including dealing with Employment Insurance. The questions will be numerous and if the Co-ordinators cannot answer them they will be able to direct people coming to the centre to where the answers may be available.

Peer Helpers and Peer Counsellors

Peer helpers and Peer Counsellors have taken some training to better assist those that use the centre. They will be able to help with putting together a resume or writing a covering letter. If it is training that you want they will be able to assist you in getting that training.

No one can solve all the problems we face when we are unemployed, however the Action Centre will assist you on while you are on the road to reemployment. Come in, have a coffee and register your resume with us.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

. . . If you break your leg while receiving Employment Insurance and cannot actively look for employment you are entitled to receive up to 15 weeks of sick benefits . . . come in and talk to a counsellor if this has happened to you.

WANTED

We are looking for a cleaner for the centre. For more information please contact one of the coordinators at (416) 798-1111.

