

News from the Society of Energy Professionals

**Müller:
Energy
minister
beginning
to see the
light**

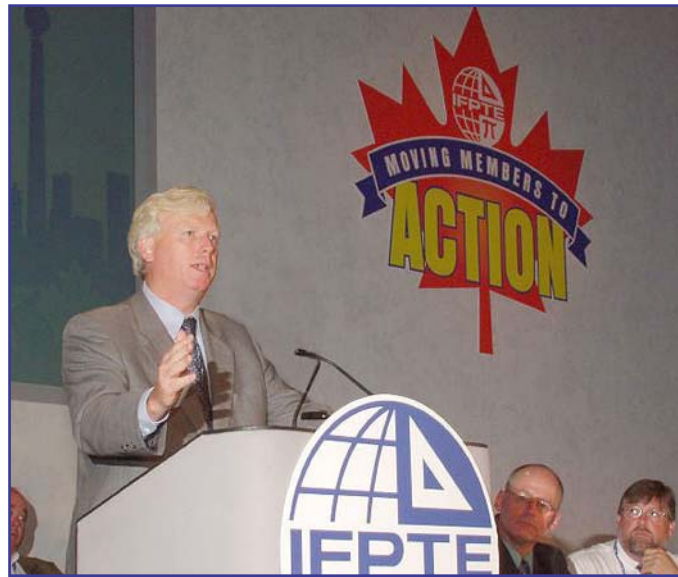


Photo: David Smiley

Toronto mayor David Miller opened the IFPTE Convention on July 10th, saying, "In Toronto, every day is Labour Day" (for Convention articles, see *NewsCast 2006:04, forthcoming*)

The energy minister has taken another step in the direction of the advice the Society's been giving him for three years, says Society President Andrew Müller.

"This is really looking at the practical side of things," he said. "In the end, practical realities trump politics. It's obvious we need our coal plants to supply affordable electricity, back up the system, and keep it reliable."

President Müller was responding to the government's announcement on June 12th of changes to its plans for the electricity system. In a media conference, the Minister said the government would:

- ◆ mandate that nuclear power make up at least 50 per cent of Ontario's electricity supply, or around 14,000 MW, requiring refurbishment of existing units, and building new ones
- ◆ continue to rely on OPG's coal-fired stations until at least 2010, and explore ways to reduce emissions
- ◆ double renewable generation and conservation efforts
- ◆ expand transmission lines between Bruce County and the rest of the Ontario grid to accommodate new generation

The announcement meant that the government accepted that Ontario's remaining coal-fired generating stations would not be closed by 2007—the date by which they'd promised to do it during the 2003 election.

The Society has been telling Minister Duncan since 2003 that the Liberals' promise to shut down the coal stations by 2007—viewed by many as a crucial vote-getter in the election that brought them to power—was unrealistic, unworkable, too expensive, and would not result in significant improvements in air quality.

As the Society predicted, the government's effort to replace the coal stations largely with natural gas-fired stations is mired in controversy, with thousands of Toronto residents actively opposing the 500MW Portlands Energy Centre, planned for the harbour area, and tens of thousands of Sarnia-Lambton residents actively opposing the shut-down of Lambton

... efforts to force the government to conform to the *Environmental Assessments Act* are responsible for stalling the Sarnia natural gas projects.

GS in favour of a pair of private, natural gas units. Both the IESO and former energy minister Donna Cansfield have said that efforts to force the government to conform to the *Environmental Assessments Act* are responsible for stalling the Sarnia natural gas projects. The Society has been actively involved in those efforts.

While the government has danced around the issue of more nuclear power—perhaps understandably, given the level of controversy any announcement favouring nuclear power will generate—the Society has advised him that more nuclear is the key to reducing the amount of baseload power currently being generated by the fossil stations. Refurbishment of the Pickering B units, and the building of at least one new nuclear station, will help the government achieve its goals.

The government claims to be open to all nuclear options, but the Society argues that Ontario should stick with CANDU technology, a reliable, safe technology in which Canadians have already made a huge investment. OPG and Bruce Power are the obvious operators to rely on.

In the aftermath of the government presentation, the Society renewed its call on the government to mandate

OPG to install pollution control equipment on the rest of the operating coal-fired units.

“Two of OPG’s Lambton units are among the cleanest in North America,” Müller said.

“If we want cleaner air, and

we do, then cleaning up the rest of the coal-fired units is a must. To complete the ‘win-win,’ it’ll be much cheaper than replacing them with natural gas-fired generators.”

Society and energy minister: back on track?

The Society has been invited to participate as an important stakeholder in government advisory bodies on the

electricity industry.

“Our efforts to influence the government’s electricity policies have resulted in a breakthrough,” said Society President **Andrew Müller**. “The government now recognizes the Society as an important stakeholder, and a group worth listening to.”

Talks with the Minister began in the lead-up to the government’s June 12th announcement, (see article, above). The Minister committed himself to President Müller and Executive VP **Bill Jones** that the Society would be offered:

- ◆ a seat on the Minister’s advisory council on the electricity industry
- ◆ a seat on the “sectoral council” being set up to deal with electricity issues
- ◆ regular meetings with the Minister himself

The Minister made it clear, though, that he could not commit himself to such undertakings while the Society was involved in legal proceedings against the government. The Society has taken action in a number of legal forums to force the provincial government to comply fully with the *Environmental Assessment Act* in implementing its Coal Replacement Plan, most notably appeals of environmental rulings around the zoning and siting of two natural gas-fired plants underway in the Sarnia-Lambton area.

It was a tough choice, said Müller, but in the end he chose to accede to the Minister’s request. “Not only can we declare victory and stop spending so much on legal costs, he said, “we have a chance to put our relationship with the Minister on a much better footing.” The government has promised not only to keep the coal stations running, but to let OPG clean them up, which is exactly what the Society had been asking for, he added. “If the relationship proceeds as the Minister advertises it, it’ll be a fair trade.”

The Society’s legal actions were withdrawn last week, on a “without cost” basis, that is, the Society pays only its own costs.

The Society continues to take every opportunity to provide input to the Ontario Power Authority as it creates the Integrated Power System Plan.

Board highlights, June-July, 2006

The Society's Executive Board met on Tuesday, June 6th; Thursday, June 22nd; and Wednesday, July 5th. The following items were discussed and decisions made.

SPEA Affiliation: The servicing agreement with the Society of Professional Engineers and Associates of AECL (see *Newscast* 2004:12) has reached its conclusion. In accordance with that agreement, the Society and SPEA are considering whether to affiliate formally. As the first step in that process, the Executive Board unanimously authorized the Executive Committee to enter into negotiations with SPEA for a formal affiliation.

In the July meeting, the Executive Committee brought just such an agreement to the Board for approval. The agreement had already been approved unanimously by the SPEA Executive. It provides that SPEA, upon approval of the agreement by both parties, will become a local of the Society, and acquire all rights and duties of a Society local, on a "trial" basis, and will pay dues to the Society. The current assets of SPEA will remain in escrow for one year, until September 1st, 2007; on that date, the trial period ends, the affiliation is complete, and SPEA's assets will be transferred to the Society's Collective Agreement Renewal Fund.

The Board approved the agreement unanimously.

"I look forward to our relationship with SPEA becoming much closer," said Society President **Andrew Müller**. "Our servicing agreement with SPEA has been extremely successful, and you couldn't find a group of employees who fit the Society better."

The affiliation agreement must be ratified in a referendum of the SPEA membership. That vote will be taken on July

12th. Under the Society's rules, such affiliations and mergers are approved by the Executive Board.

Government relations: President Müller and Executive VP **Bill Jones** were involved in June in discussions with the Energy Minister regarding improving relationships between the Society and the provincial government. Minister Duncan opened up the discussions just prior to making his announcement on June 12th regarding nuclear and coal in the supply mix (see article above).

President Müller and Hydro One Local Vice President **Keith Rattai** met with Labour Minister Steve Peters, at which meeting they discussed matters related to labour relations at Hydro One.

CAR Fund replenishment: Vice President Finance Bill Jones presented the Board with a draft plan for the replenishment of the Collective Agreement Renewal Fund. Due to the strike at Hydro One, the Fund has not only been depleted, but is \$3 million in debt to the Society's Training Fund, from which it borrowed in order to meet strike-pay necessities. It is exceedingly important to have a flush strike fund heading into 2008, the next year in which the Hydro One Local is required to negotiate a new collective agreement.

The Board approved the following methods to get the fund back in shape to meet future challenges:

- ◆ Raise the levels at which the fund is managed to \$14 million minimum and \$15 million maximum

Currently the fund is maintained at a minimum of \$4 million, and a maximum of \$5 million. When the fund goes below \$4 million, the CAR Fund levy of \$3 per member per week is triggered; when it hits \$5 million, the levy is removed. Should Society Council approve the change, it and the below would mean the CAR Fund levy will remain in place until sometime in early 2008, at which time the Fund is expected to reach \$15 million.

- ◆ Transfer all Bruce Equity distributions, minus the amount set aside for decision by the Bruce Power Local, to the CAR Fund

As approved by Society Council, 20 per cent of the cash disbursements from the Society's ownership position in Bruce Power are set aside for the Bruce Power Local for the purpose of philanthropic disbursements. Under the CAR Fund replenishment plan, all the rest would be placed in the Fund until the maximum is reached in 2008.

- ◆ Forgive the Training Fund loan

In the judgement of the Board, it is not necessary to maintain the Training Fund at its current asset level of approximately \$5 million (including the borrowing from the CAR Fund). Disbursements from the Training Fund are expected to be near zero for the foreseeable future, and the need to replenish the CAR Fund is more pressing than the need to maintain a large Training Fund.

... it is not necessary to maintain the Training Fund at its current asset level ..

The Training Fund and Bruce Equity provisions will mean no special membership dues levy will be required for the CAR Fund to be raised, should Society Council approve it.

Society Council will consider this Board recommendation in October.

In order to avoid a situation where the CAR fund levy would be turned off and on again in a short period of time, the Executive Board voted to defer the funding transfer until such time as Council has decided the issue.

Unit 5 Election: The Board considered a number of concerns and complaints around the Unit Director election in Unit 5 (Darlington NGS). Since several of the allegations concerned the actions of Chief Returning Officer **Navratan Chandoke**, arrangements had been made for him

to attend by telephone; unfortunately, at the appointed time he was unavailable without notice or explanation. In the event, the Board considered the matter without his participation.

It was alleged by Deputy Returning Officer **Marlene Khalil** and others that the manner in which ballots had been secured while voting was taking place had compromised the balloting process. The following, taken together, were crucial considerations:

- ◆ By order of the CRO, unlocked ballot boxes had been used (an appeal to the Constitutional Interpretation Committee produced a ruling in the CRO's favour)
- ◆ For at least two of the balloting days, the ballot boxes were kept in the office of one of the candidates
- ◆ Upon examination of the balloting envelopes by the DRO before they were counted, it appeared that many of the envelopes had been tampered with

The Board decided that the combination of these factors hopelessly compromised at least the *appearance* of a fair vote having taken place. The Board therefore decided to re-run the balloting, for the same candidates, ensuring that the security of the ballots and containers is scrupulously maintained. CRO Chandoke was suspended, and Vice President Membership Services **Rod Sheppard** was appointed CRO for the purpose of re-running the balloting.

(The Unit 5 election presided over by CRO Chandoke was run under the rules contained in the Society Constitution before it was amended by Society Council in April, 2006. Under those rules, the CRO was appointed by Society Council; under the new Constitution, the CRO is appointed by the Board.)

Legal issues: The Board approved a number of estimates of legal expenses involved in cases the Society is handling.

- ◆ Barrett Chute: The Ontario Provincial Police laid charges of criminal negligence in the deaths of two Calabogie residents in a 2002 incident when water was spilled at the Barrett Chute dam on the Madawaska River. Though the charges are against a non-Society manager and a Power Worker, the Society has put a great deal of effort into following the case, preparing members for testimony, and preparing for the possibility of member(s) being charged. The original estimate was \$20,000; the Board approved an increase to \$61,000.
- ◆ An OPG termination case originally scheduled to be in arbitration hearings for three days ended up taking 15. While the grievor has been reinstated (see “employee reinstated,” below), OPG is refusing to pay the grievor retroactively, which will require even more days of hearings. The final bill will likely be \$80,000 plus.
- ◆ Arbitration of a grievance in the Inergi local has gone on significantly longer than expected. The Board raised the estimate of the final cost to \$40,000.

Rogers advertisement: The Board viewed a 30-second television advertisement that was prepared to run for 90 days on the Rogers Cable channel. The spot advertises the Society as the union of choice for professionals. At a cost of \$35,000, it will run over the summer months.

IFPTE Convention: The triennial constitution convention of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers is in Toronto from July 10th to 13th at the Royal York Hotel. Hosted by the Society and IFPTE Local 164—the IFPTE’s two Canadian locals—the Convention is the IFPTE’s most important decision-making body. The Board voted to donate \$5,000 toward the costs of operating a successful Convention, and also voted to support the following motions which will be considered at Convention:

- ◆ A motion in support of nuclear power sponsored by IFPTE Local 164

- ◆ A motion supporting the candidacy of David Miller for mayor of Toronto in the municipal election taking place this fall.

UNITE-HERE: The Society has been supporting the “Hotel Workers Rising” campaign undertaken across North America by UNITE-HERE. Hotel workers across the continent are coordinating bargaining in an attempt to address the many inequities and injustices in the working lives of hotel workers.

In the July meeting, the Executive Board heard a rousing speech from Filomena Canedo, a union activist who had been fired by the King Edward Hotel in Toronto after being injured at work. Last year, Filomena led a contingent of supporters who came to the assistance of Hydro One strikers. At a demonstration at the Toronto Board of Trade, Filomena and a throng of fellow hotel workers



Photo: David Smiley

On Wednesday, July 12th, IFPTE Convention delegates marched in pouring rain to the King Edward Hotel in Toronto to support members of UNITE-HERE. Filomena Canedo, a union leader fired by hotel management after she was injured due to the increased workloads burdening hotel workers, addressed the marchers, thanking them for their fortitude.

joined in protesting the unreasonable bargaining tactics of Hydro One CEO Tom Parkinson. The UNITE-HERE members maintained the pressure on the Board of Trade while Society President Andrew Müller and IFPTE President **Greg Junemann** were forcibly ejected from the building.

The Executive Board voted to join Inmex, an information exchange about hotel practices designed to assist union event planners to make judgements about event planning. The Board also voted to donate \$1,000 to the “Speaking Out Fund,” which supports speaking engagements for workers like Sister Canedo.

Anti-2-tier Private members bill: Hydro One Local VP **Keith Rattai**, on behalf of his local committee, advocated that the Board pursue the possibility of recruiting a member of the Ontario Legislature to introduce a private member’s bill outlawing two-tier wage systems. The Board supported the proposal.

Audit Action Plan: President Andrew Müller reported on progress since the last Executive Board meeting on implementing the Audit Action Plan, as mandated by Society Council in April. The first task, to enlist the assistance of a “facilitator” to oversee implementation of the plan, has been delayed while he searches for a qualified, available candidate. Recommendations have been received from the President of the Toronto and York District Labour Council, and three individuals are under consideration.

Society helps buy MRI equipment for Bruce area

(with files from Troy Patterson, *Shoreline Beacon*)

A fundraising campaign carried out by the Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation is over the top, thanks to a \$40,000 donation from the Society.

The Foundation set out two years ago to raise more than \$1.3 million to buy magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment for health centres in the Bruce area. Originally



Saugeen MRI drive reaches the top. On ladder, fundraising chair Paul Schendel. Standing (l to r), the Society’s Rod Sheppard, Rob Stanley, Lorne Howcroft, and Bob Wells; Hospital Foundation chair George MacDonald; the Society’s Keith Stiles and Andrew Müller; and Foundation Treasurer Christine Kelly.

targeted as a five-year campaign, it received an initial boost when Bruce Power LP anted up \$500,000. When the Society added its \$40,000, the campaign reached its final goal.

Bruce Power Local VP **Rob Stanley** says his Local was happy to be able to help. “We haven’t been involved with any significant donations to the community and figured we’d get involved.” He approached the fundraising committee when he read they were close to their goal, and made the arrangements that put them over the top.

The donation comes from the cash distributions the Society receives from its equity position in Bruce Power LP. Since they began, they have amounted to more than \$6 million. In April, Society Council approved a policy by which the Bruce Power Local can make decisions about 20 per cent of the money for philanthropic purposes.

Fundraising chair Paul Schendel said the Bruce community really got behind the campaign, but the Society donation helped them wrap up the “hardest part.” “[The Society] made life so much better for us ... it proves every cloud does have a silver lining.”

The \$1.3 million will buy MRI equipment for Grey Bruce Health Services (GBHS) in Owen Sound and x-ray and archiving equipment for GBHS in Southampton. The money raised by the foundation will be matched by the province.

UD election results: Fossil unit director unseated

The 2006 round of elections for unit director positions in Society locals is largely complete. Following are the results:

- Unit 1 (OPGN):
Senior technical engineer **Dennis Minello** acclaimed
- Unit 2 (OPGN):
Radiation control FLM **Victor Chetcuti** acclaimed
- Unit 3 (Bruce Power):
No election necessary at this time
- Unit 4 (Bruce Power):
Safety officer **Keith Stiles** acclaimed
- Unit 5 (OPGN):
Election still underway (see *Board highlights*, above)
- Unit 6 (OPGN):
Training Engineer **Marlene Khalil** (incumbent) elected over chemical, environmental engineer **Anthony Pin**

- Unit 7 (Bruce Power):
Auditor **Lorne Howcroft** (incumbent) elected over risk coordinator **Ray Lavallee**
- Unit 8 (OPGN):
Design engineer **Peter Tien** (incumbent) elected over inspection and maintenance FLM **Heinz Mueller**
- Unit 9 (OPGI):
Team leader **Tony Kokus** elected over thermal station engineer **Pat Ramcharitar** (incumbent)
- Unit 10 (OPGI):
Power engineer **Joel Barton** acclaimed
- Unit 11 (IESO):
Election on hold while structural and representational arrangements are decided
- Unit 12 (Inergi):
Election on hold while procedural matters are decided
- Unit 13 (Hydro One):
Telecommunications engineer **Carolyn Coney** acclaimed
- Unit 14 (Hydro One):
Training supervisor **John Cameron** acclaimed
- Unit 15 (OPGI):
No nominations received
- Unit 16 (OPGI):
Project planning manager **Joe Fierro** acclaimed
- Unit 17 (Inergi):
IT specialist **Lori Meloche-Walker** (incumbent) elected over IT analyst **Mark St. Hilaire**
- Unit 19 (New Horizon):
No nominations received
- Unit 20 (OPGI):
Safety specialist **Dave Romanowicz** acclaimed



On Sunday, July 9th, on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Nikola Tesla, a memorial to him was unveiled in Niagara Falls. In the late 1800s a promoter of alternating current electricity, Tesla was a Serb-born, visionary inventor. Professional Engineers Ontario have designated 2006 as the "year of Tesla." For more on this fascinating character, visit the Tesla Society web-site.

Unit 22 (OPGN):

Nuclear waste engineer **Jose Freire-Canosa** acclaimed

Unit 23 (NSS):

Engineer **Jeremy McEachern** acclaimed

Unit 26 (OPGN):

Operations specialist **Mike Lohse** acclaimed

Unit 27 (OPGN):

Cost and scheduling analyst **Adam Habayeb** acclaimed

Unit 28 (OPGI):

Strategic planning specialist **Vladimir Glen** acclaimed

Unit 29 (OPGI):

Engineer **Ali Aghvami** acclaimed

Unit 30 (New Horizon):

Information management analyst **Jay Monteiro** elected over team leader **Muneeb Khan** (incumbent)

Unit 31 (New Horizon):

Information systems analyst **Kathleen Wilcox** acclaimed

Unit 32 (Hydro One):

Benchmarking analyst **Lynn Andrews** acclaimed

Unit 34 (New Horizon):

Program coordinator **Jim Botari** elected over protection and control engineer **Walter Gauci**

Perhaps the biggest surprise in the elections was the unseating of long-serving Fossil unit director Pat Ramcharitar. He was challenged by delegate Tony Kokus, who promised to bring a "new level of energy and commitment to the position." Tony won 72 votes to 37.

Society OPGI Local VP **Lanny Totton** welcomed Kokus to his new responsibilities. "He's made some promises we'll want him to keep," Totton said. "I'd also like to thank Pat Ramcharitar for his many years of service—I hope he'll stay active in the local."

Long-service employee reinstated after termination for absences

Employers cannot ignore factors such as long service and excellent prior performance when considering disciplinary action, even when the actions provoking discipline are serious, an Arbitrator has said in a Society case.

The grievor, a Society-represented employee with 31 years of excellent service, had been terminated after many weeks of illness-related absences from his position. Arbitrator Owen Shime ruled that his employer was required to reinstate him--that there hadn't been "just cause" for dismissal.

Subsequent to a reorganization the employee had been taken off shift work and placed in what he considered

to be a menial day position. Difficulty with his sleep patterns—caused by the change from shift work—exacerbated his position. The grievor also alleged that his relationships with his managers had been difficult since he had advocated for a fellow employee who had pursued a harassment complaint. He had applied for different working hours, and been turned down. He had also applied for a transfer to another work location, and been turned down. The grievor’s physician diagnosed a sleep disorder caused by stress at the workplace, rendering him unable to work.

The Employer’s own physician, and an independent medical examiner, could find no medical reason for the grievor’s inability to attend at work. Upon being directed to show up, he refused, and was terminated in 2004.

Though there were indications that the grievor’s problems were worsened by substance abuse, Arbitrator Shime ruled that that abuse was not at the root of the problem. Indeed, he noted that the grievor had managed to conceal it—both from the Employer and from his Society representatives—until well into the arbitration process. As a result, the Employer was not obliged to take the abuse and illness into account when fashioning discipline appropriate to the grievor’s absences. (The grievor has since undergone treatment, and has successfully kicked his addictions.)

Though the grievor’s actions were serious, the Employer completely failed to take into account his years of long service, said Arbitrator Shime. The Employer also ignored the advice of its own medical personnel, who had recommended that a process be devised to address the grievor’s workplace issues. Mr. Shime ordered the grievor reinstated, and left it to the Employer and the Society to fashion appropriate remedies and compensation for the grievor.

The evidence in the case was highly complicated, and involved a great deal of medical testimony. Eventually, hearings spread over 15 days, at great expense to both parties. The parties have not been able to fashion a rem-

edy, and so that matter is expected to be taken back to Arbitrator Shime.

EFN-Canada branch formed

A branch of *Écologistes pour l’énergie nucléaire/Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy* has been set up in Canada.

EFN was formed in 1996 in Paris, France, around the publication of the book *Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy* by Bruno Comby, who grew up in Alberta and received degrees in nuclear engineering in France. He is also the author of eight books on natural health, sustainable lifestyles, and ecology, and claims to have over a million readers in more than ten languages.

Among EFN’s founders was French nurse Simone Weiss, who had been an anti-nuclear activist, actively participating in anti-nuclear protests against the building of Superphenix, a nuclear power station on the Rhône River at Creys-Malville in France, close to the border with Switzerland. Due to her environmentalist bent, she changed her stance in the 1990s, participated in the creation of EFN, and continues on its Board of Directors.

EFN’s mission is to be an independent, non-profit, environmental organization which aims to :

- ◆ provide complete and straightforward information to the public on energy and the environment
- ◆ promote the benefits of nuclear energy for a cleaner world
- ◆ unite people in favor of clean nuclear energy

EFN says well managed nuclear energy is very clean energy, does not pollute the atmosphere, uses fewer construction materials per KWh than solar and wind energy, produces minimal waste, and does not contribute to the “greenhouse” effect. EFN says true environmentalists should favour nuclear energy. EFN plays a major role in informing the public on nuclear energy in France, Finland, Japan, Australia, the U.K., and numerous other countries

with “environmental expos,” lectures, letters, media coverage, and the like.

EFN-Canada’s president is Rod Anderson, a chartered accountant who retired from his position as national director of auditing and managing partner of the Toronto office of Clarkson Gordon (now Ernst & Young) in 1983. Since retiring, he has developed his abilities as a poet and composer, and is a member of Public Power for Ontario. When he discovered EFN, he found out that though the organization had members in 56 countries, there was no organization in Canada.

It seemed to me important that we have an alternative to the public’s and media’s mistaken view that all environmentalists are automatically anti-nuclear. Nuclear energy is the only massively available source of electricity that does not emit greenhouse gases, which threaten our planet’s very survival.

EFN-Canada’s honorary chair is Patrick Moore, founder of Greenpeace, who left the organization in a disagreement over their policies and methods (see *NewsCast* 2005:09). Famous English environmentalist James Lovelock (see *NewsCast* 2004:12) is an “honorary member.”

“EFN can be an important ally for us in preserving the best of Ontario’s electricity system, especially its nuclear component” said Society President **Andrew Müller**. “I would encourage all Society members who agree with EFN’s aims to join and lend their support.”

McGuinty govt: wants high-paying jobs?

The government of Ontario is making significant investments in creating “high-paying jobs” in Ontario, according to a recent press release.

The release touted the Government’s \$24 million Innovation Demonstration Fund, which “helps companies

develop promising new technologies by supporting them at the pilot or demonstration project stage.” In the release, Premier McGuinty is quoted as saying:

“We’re on the side of Ontario families who want high-paying, highly skilled jobs for their children,” said Premier Dalton McGuinty, who also serves as the Minister of Research and Innovation. “... By building a province that truly capitalizes on the talent of people, we’re creating new wealth and a higher quality of life for us all.

An observant reader from the Hydro One Local observes that this statement would appear to be the opposite of the Premier’s position during the Hydro One strike last year, during which he said relatively little as Hydro One CEO Tom Parkinson sought to lower the pay and benefits of ... young employees.

More optimistic Society observers see this as a sign that Parkinson’s views are not in line with those of his boss—the Premier—who would be well advised to bring Parkinson under control, for the good of the Province and those much-needed high-paying jobs.

Society daughter wins scholarship

Toronto high school student Marina Freire-Gormaly, daughter of OPGN engineer and unit director **Jose Freire-Canosa**, has won a \$1,000 scholarship for her university studies.

Marina won her scholarship through a competition held by Union Plus. Union Plus is a benefits program for union members run by the AFL-CIO in the U.S. Some of those benefits—including the Union Plus scholarships competition—are available to AFL-CIO members in Canada. Society members are members of the AFL-CIO by virtue of the Society’s affiliation with the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers.

Dad Jose isn't the only union member in Marina's family—she's walked picket lines with her teacher mum. In high school Marina was already a member of CUPE.

She's planning to go into chemical engineering, plays five musical instruments, and is a member of the Royal Regiment of Canada Military Band. The band was recently in Poland on an international exchange.

As a young activist, she works with Development and Peace, a group that champions the rights of farmers in Third World countries and supports "fair trade." When she graduates from university, she hopes to use her skills



Marina Freire-Gormaly, with proud dad Jose.

and qualifications to make a difference. "I plan to invent cheaper and more renewable energy systems that can be used in Third World countries to raise the playing field for their industries," she says.

The Union Plus scholarships are offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation, with funding from HSBC. Marina is among this year's 108 winners from 44 unions. Applicants were required to demonstrate academic ability, and submit a 500-word essay describing their career goals and detailing their relationship with the labour movement.

IFPTE President **Gregory Junemann** says the Union Plus scholarship program serves a very important purpose. "The Bush administration keeps slashing programs that help working families realize the dream of higher education as a path to a better life," he said. "[These] scholarships provide crucial help to many women and men in the labour movement seeking to realize their dreams."

Marina has been accepted at the University of Toronto, and will begin a program in engineering sciences in September.

Society members interested in finding out for what benefits they are eligible can visit the Union Plus web-site (www.unionplus.org), and be sure to visit the FAQ in "about us" that deals with Canadian benefits. When applying for benefits, the applicant must specify "IFPTE" as their union.



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