

No Aluminum Tariffs No Quotas

As you may be aware on September 30, 2018 the new NAFTA was tentatively agreed to between the US, Mexico and Canada and re-named the USMCA.

The prelude to this tentative agreement included the US government imposing steel and aluminum tariffs on Mexico and Canada and the Canadian government imposing a number of counter-tariffs on the US.

All of the tariffs were supposed to be removed when the new agreement was reached. To date, they have not been removed.

In an unprecedented fashion our National President, Jerry Dias, had access to the negotiations and advised the Federal government by providing a voice for workers. It is unfortunate that the tariffs were still on the table, but at the time the alternative being offered was a quota system, which would restrict the aluminum industry in Canada's access to the US market.

Since the USMCA tentative agreement was reached and the aluminum tariffs remain we have been working diligently with our National Union to help protect jobs, workers and to safeguard the Canadian aluminum industry.

In conjunction with the National Union, the President and Business Agent met with the Provincial government in Victoria to kick off efforts to lobby governments at all levels to have the tariffs removed. After two weeks of discussions with stakeholders, including Rio Tinto, the next phase of our campaign took place with six members of your local Executive and six from Quebec, meeting with the Federal government in Ottawa.

Over the course of two days, our Union participated in approximately 60 meetings in Ottawa on Parliament Hill. We lobbied MP's from all political parties, educating them on the economic importance of the Canadian aluminum industry and to ensure that workers are a priority. We also had an opportunity to meet with the lead negotiator for Canada in the NAFTA renegotiations and we left no stones unturned in Ottawa.

Our message is clear, we will support the Canadian government taking a hardline by refusing to sign the new USMCA until aluminum tariffs and quotas are off the table.

We will continue to fight for the removal of these tariffs at all levels.

Your Union at work!