



**POWER  
WORKERS'  
UNION**

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# **ERIE THAMES POWER STRIKE ENTERS WEEK SEVEN**

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**On July 28 the Bargaining Committees from Erie Thames Power and the Power Workers' Union (PWU) resumed negotiations with assistance from a mediator from the Ministry of Labour in an attempt to end the strike that began on June 21st and return the 51 employees to work.**

**Although the union bargaining team felt progress was made at the bargaining table and requested that the company agree to further meetings, there has been no response from the company.**

**The central issue in the dispute is the preservation of the 40 hour work week. The company has demanded that employees agree to a mandatory 45 hour work week.**

**Our members perform hazardous work in an unforgiving environment. In addition to their base 40 hour week, they respond when storms hit or a car accident takes out a hydro pole, 24 hours a day – 365 days a year, to keep your lights on. They take their service to the community very seriously. They take their health and safety and the health and safety of the public very seriously.**

**We do not know how many of the at least 20 Directors on the various Boards of the company or how many of the 29 Managers support this attack on the 40 hour week.**

**We know that the companies, Erth Corporation, CRU Solutions, Erie Thames Powerlines, Ecaliber, Coulter Water Meter Services and E360 are owned by the municipalities of Aylmer, Ingersoll, Central Elgin, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, South-West Oxford and Zorra and that each of these municipalities has representation on the Board of Directors.**

**We know that the company is profitable.**

**We know that the company formally applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to raise customer rates to support their top-heavy management structure and the OEB did not approve the application.**

**We do not know if the Directors from the owner municipalities knowingly supported this action.**

**The 51 employees at Erie Thames Power know they are under attack – they just don't know why.**