



## **Why are Power Workers' Union Members on Strike at Erie Thames?**

Since June 21, the 50 members of the Power Workers' Union (PWU) who work at CRU Solutions Inc., Erie Thames Powerlines Corp., ECaliber and Coulter Water Meter Service Inc. (formerly Erie Thames Power) went on strike.

Erie Thames Power is attempting to squeeze their employees to fund implementation of a top heavy organizational structure that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) deemed to be unnecessary. Erie Thames recently made application to the OEB to allow funding of their extravagant plan from you – the ratepayers. The OEB wasn't buying their justification.

Erie Thames had its revenue requests adjusted downward by the OEB at the 2007 rate hearing resulting in the following 3 cuts to revenue totaling \$234,950.

- **Increase in cost of Erie Thames Directors' - \$35,512**

The OEB denied the increased cost of adding 4 Directors to its Board increasing the total to 11 Directors.

- **Allocation of Erie Thames' parent company's corporate costs to Erie Thames - \$104,438**

The OEB disallowed Erie Thames' application to include Erie Thames parent company's Board of Directors costs in the amount of \$104,438 stating that the costs of the parent company are shareholder costs to be paid for with parent company revenues.

- **Increase in Executive Costs - \$95,000**

Erie Thames added 3 positions at the executive level in 2007 resulting in increased cost of \$200,000. The OEB disallowed \$95,000 of the \$200,000 increase in cost sought.

Despite the OEB decision not to approve the above noted requests for revenue from the customer rate base, the company went ahead with their plans and expenditures. In fact the company has continued to expand even further at the top and now has 29 managers for 50 employees.

The Power Workers' Union has 49 collective agreements throughout Ontario and Erie Thames has by far the most outrageous management to employee ratio of any of our employers.

Erie Thames Power is owned by the municipalities of Aylmer, Central Elgin, East Zorra-Tavistock, Ingersoll, Norwich, South-West Oxford and Zorra.

Messages of support for the strikers are coming in from all over Ontario and already PWU members from other bargaining units are showing their support in a tangible way – financially and on the picket lines.

We want to get back to the table as soon as possible with the goal of establishing a settlement that is fair for employees, the employer and the customer.

The Power Workers' Union is the largest electricity union in Ontario, representing over 15,000 employees in electricity distribution, transmission, generation, regulation, and research and development.