

GENMO AT QUEEN'S PARK RALLY

GENMO members from across Ontario attended the Rally at Queen's Park on April 23, 2009. The Rally was organized in protest of Premier Dalton McGuinty's statement that the Ontario Government did not intend to contribute to the maintenance of the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund (PBGF). General Motors has contributed \$5M to the PBGF for each of the hourly and salaried pension plans every year since its inception in 1980. Employees and pensioners of companies, such as Nortel, currently experiencing bankruptcy, appealed to the government to legislate the funding of defined pension funds and reduce the risk to pensioners.

The Rally was organized by the CAW. Other groups such as GENMO and unions such as CUPE and OPSEU were present at the Rally. GENMO arranged two buses for its members from Oshawa and members from other major centres travelled on CAW buses. Thank you to the CAW for inviting GENMO members to travel with CAW members on their buses. It was reported that this Rally was one of the largest Rallies held at Queen's Park.

Brian Rutherford, President, was one of eleven speakers at the Rally and spoke on behalf of the GENMO Salaried Pension Organization. Every speaker, including Brian, had a common message; Pensioners must not be put at risk by underfunded pension plans and the government must take responsibility for the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund. As one speaker stated, the workers and pensioners of the automotive manufacturing sector, who made billions of dollars profit for the automotive industry and contributed enormous amounts to the local and Canadian economy over the years, are now being referred to as Legacy Costs.

GENMO Director, Joe O'Neill, presented a Petition to John O'Toole, MPP at the Rally. John Vanderhorst, Lynn McCullough, Joe O'Neill, and Jan O'Neill, were invited to be present during the reading of the Petition in the Legislature. The Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario was read and supported by John O'Toole, MPP, that afternoon and is recorded in the Hansard Records. The Provincial Government is required to formally respond to the Petition. Thank you to John O'Toole for his support and for meeting with GENMO members at the Rally.

Thank you to all GENMO members who attended the Rally.