

## **No conflict on burning issue, says CAW**

Fri Jan 18, 2008

By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- Being opposed to the creation of new incinerators isn't a conflict for the CAW, in spite of the fact the union currently represents workers at a similar facility in Brampton, says a union representative.

The CAW has passed a resolution saying it is not in favour of building incinerators, such as one proposed for Courtice to deal with municipal waste left over after diversion.

But since hearing of the resolution on incineration, some residents have questioned how the CAW can be opposed, yet represent labourers working in such a plant.

Workers at the Algonquin Power plant, an energy-from-waste facility in Brampton, are represented by the CAW.

The resolution is part of a larger campaign the union is involved in, aimed at extended producer responsibility, say union representatives.

According to a letter from CAW president Buzz Hargrove, "Extended Producer Responsibility requires producers of products to be responsible for the environmental impacts of their products throughout the product's 'life cycle'. It requires producers to take products back at the end of their useful life. Products would have to be reused or recycled rather than incinerated or sent to landfills."

Opening the door to incineration would "open the door to all industries to burn their waste," as opposed to finding more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with it, said Dave Renaud, president of the CAW Durham Region Environmental Council.

Even as it stands, there are factories out there touting the fact they produce no waste, but the truth is, they are simply using incineration to get rid of it, said Mr. Renaud.

It's a bit of a conundrum in terms of jobs, admitted Mr. Renaud.

"We don't want to hurt their (the Brampton facility workers') jobs, but we also don't want incinerators to pop up across the country," he said.