

Many may take retirement option at K-C Mill

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of information with a grant from the government.

"It will be important to do this even if it doesn't save a single job," he added. "We don't know what the impact will be here... it's an important piece of work."

"Right now Terrace Bay is in the limelight...we should get what we need now," Lavigne said. "For example, we would want to get UIC (Unemployment Insurance Commission) counsellors here. I can't see 355 people going to Thunder Bay."

"We as Council should put on the pressure for this," Councillor Chris Joubert agreed.

"We should ask UIC to establish a temporary office here once we have a list of those that are going to be laid off," Councillor Peter

Romanuk said. The lay-off process will take up to three months, a company official noted last week.

"I certainly support you, but it's up to both governments to get off their butts and do something," Romanuk added.

"It's difficult to adjust to this," Councillor George Ramsay said. He pointed out that at least there are 1,500 people still working for the company.

"An absolute disaster would be if they were to close the mill entirely," he added.

"They are talking about setting up a labour pool which would be called in on a day-to-day basis," Lavigne noted. But he added that there is little to look at on the positive side.

"A lot of the temporary (workers) are established here with houses and mortgages," Lavigne said. A

total of 100 temporary employees were included in the 355 lay-offs. Of the 100, some have been on temporary status for as long as five years.

"And out of the 255, probably half of them own homes," he said. Of those, over 50 were notified on the day of K-C's announcement, August 25, that they would be among those to be laid off.

"We are just looking for some direction, some formal way to have a discussion," Lavigne explained, though he added that the union does not have too much information to work with right now itself.

When contacted by the News on Monday, K-C Director of Industrial Relations Al Chisholm said it is still too "premature" to discuss how many have decided to take the retirement option being offered

by the company.

"We must also get feedback from the business community," Reeve Chapman told Lavigne. "Some-

thing will be done, but we are still in a state of shock."

The ad hoc committee suggestion will be dis-

cussed at a future meeting, Chapman promised.

When contacted for his own reaction, Schreiber Reeve Mike Cosgrove said that things could be worse

and that it's not really all "gloom and doom." He added that he and Council will continue to observe the situation.

Layoffs catastrophic

at its pulp mill in Terrace Bay and nearby woodlands operations would be laid-off, effective immediately.

"Today's announcement of massive lay-offs...has sent shock waves through a number of communities in my riding," Pouliot explained. "I would request, therefore, that you use your good office to intervene in this emergency situation and do everything possible to reduce the social and economic impact of this crisis."

Pouliot also suggested

that Peterson use his officials to examine the possibility of supplementing the early retirement package offered to some eligible employees of Kimberly-Clark, confirming a story which appeared in last week's issue of the News.

"In addition, incentives must be designed to foster the expansion of industrial activity in the area," the MPP said. "For example, the reduction of Hydro rates could be an effective tool for stimulating both consumer and industrial

demand for goods and services."

Pouliot also felt gasoline prices should be equalized throughout the province to eliminate an additional disincentive to economic activity in Northern Ontario.

"A program to abrogate provincial sales tax on goods which are produced, assembled or manufactured in the northern part of the province would compensate for some of the natural and legislated impediments to commercial and industrial activity in my riding," he added.

Peterson was also urged to immediately establish what Pouliot called a "Tomorrow Fund" to offer some degree of protection for those who have been laid-off, like those at the K-C pulp mill in Terrace Bay.

"I would, finally, request that you give your assurance that a program for job retraining and placement is established as expeditiously as possible for laid-off employees of Kimberly-Clark," Pouliot concluded. "Your immediate attention to this matter would be deeply appreciated and is merited by the catastrophic nature of the dilemma faced by our constituents."

Copies of the telegram were also sent to Vince Kerrio, the Minister of Natural Resources, as well as the Minister of Treasury and Economics, Robert Nixon, and George Tough, the Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Whoops

In a recent issue of the News, the Deadheads Slo-Pitch team was credited with the Schreiber League Championship. The team actually finished first in the league, but did not win in the subsequent championship tournament. The top team was Heinz 57s.

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