

Spruce Falls stud mill in Kapuskasing due to close

By Don Umpherson

a predicted slump in the lumber industry.

Fred Campling, president and chief executive officer of the company, told employees April 21, that 219 jobs would be eliminated at the stud mill when the operation closes in August.

Currently, the mill supplies primarily construction timber for homes.

Campling said the 15 per cent surtax on softwood lumber exports to the U.S., coupled with a fluctuating Canadian dollar, has been forcing the price of lumber down while limiting the market in the United States.

However, Len Wood, president of the local chapter of the Canadian Paperworkers Union, said following the announcement that the union is not accepting the company's claim to financial hardship and is insisting company executives open their books to an independent auditor in efforts to justify the layoff.

The company is offering an early retirement incentive package to employees who are over 60 years of age in efforts to reduce the number of younger employees facing layoff.

Employees over 60 years of age, with 30 years experience, are being offered a full pension plus an

additional \$600 per month until age 65.

Those employees over 60 but without 30 years seniority will be

offered a partial pension plus \$700 per month.

The company also says it may reopen a dormant chip mill which

will provide 57 jobs for those laid off when the stud mill closes.

The company employs 1,800 in Kapuskasing.

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Those requiring further information may contact Mrs. Paulette Shonoski, faculty coordinator, or Ms. Shelby Poletti, student manager, at Lakehead University (807) 345-2121, ext. 660, or write the program at: Small Business Consulting Program

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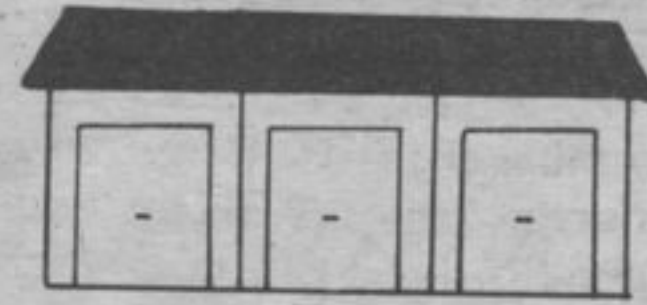
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