

Going with CLAC Was A Big Mistake

March 2021

Hello Steelworkers,

My name is Gary Menard and I once made the biggest mistake in my union career.

That mistake was to use CLAC to raid our workplace (Alexandria Moulding) to get rid of the SEIU, another union we had back in 2011. At the time, I was a steward in my shop and I literally did everything for CLAC to come into our shop.

However, once CLAC came in to negotiate, we lost so many important things in our contract. Everyone was pissed off at me for bringing them in.

We lost part of our dental, prescriptions and lots more in our language.

By 2014, I'd had enough. They wanted to allow new positions to people on layoff before offering it by posting to employees first. I nearly got fired over this issue and when I called the CLAC rep in Ottawa to let him know that this was wrong, he was not on my side with this. So, I told him that this was the only contract they would ever have with us and made it my mission to get rid of CLAC the moment I had a chance.

We applied to the labour board with the help of the United Steelworkers and got a vote and the members voted to choose USW instead of CLAC.

CLAC was so mad that when this happened, they shipped their rep back out West where he belongs. To whoever is reading this, feel free to contact me and stay away from CLAC.

I am now the President of the USW Local in my workplace and with the help of the Steelworkers we were able to negotiate most of everything back.

Gary Menard
USW President
Local 2278