brought to the public's attention. Last year, in the United States, every railroad union authorized a strike action, and garnered broad support from the American public. The people are paying attention to the railroads and the crimes they are committing under the façade of ‘shareholder value.’

Their reign in the darkness is coming to an end. For decades, North American railroads called their freight operations the “envy of the world.” This farce is seeing its final days. The public has their eye on their shadiness, and there is popular support for substantially more passenger train service — whether the railroads want to do so or not.

And of course, my fellow workers are more adamantly willing to challenge the railroads than they have in decades. We are acutely aware of safety shortcuts like the one that happened here in 2013. We are with you. And there are not enough church services (Editor’s Note: referring to the politicians’ preferred expression of “solidarity”) to account for what you have lost.”

Citizens’ Group Reiterate Demand for Public Inquiry into 2013 Tragedy

July 6, 2023 marked 10 years since the tragedy of Lac-Mégantic. Hundreds of residents, along with friends and supporters, gathered for a series of events to observe the anniversary and to honor the 47 victims. The day began with a somber procession across the tracks, laying flowers at the site of the derailment, at 1:14 AM, the precise time of the incident.

Quebec Premier Legault and Prime Minister Trudeau, who bear at least some responsibility for stalling on the just, necessary demand for a full public inquiry, held court in a memorial service at a local church. Others, including the local Coalition of Organizations and Individuals for Rail Safety, gathered for a protest, reiterating their demand for a full public inquiry, among other issues. It’s worth noting that the government has not delivered on promises to fund follow up studies of the chemical byproducts in the water of Lac-Mégantic and its river. This bureaucratic cover-up of the true toxic legacy is something the residents of East Palestine, OH should be on guard for in their fight with NS.

A delegation of RWU members and supporters made the trip to express our solidarity. Several addressed the gathering and press conference. All eloquently spoke for and represented RWU, and were well received, including one member who spoke French. Referring to a 2017 concert fundraiser for the legal defense of scapegoated engineer Tom Harding that he helped organize, the following is an excerpt from his remarks:

"... but even stronger was our solidarity for Tom - and our desire for the "Crown" to launch a proper investigation into what actually caused the tragedy ten years ago. Well, something is under way in North America. The railroads spent several decades out of the public limelight, but with each passing "incident", they’re brought to the public's attention. Last year, in the United States, every railroad union authorized a strike action, and garnered broad support from the American public. The people are paying attention to the railroads and the crimes they are committing under the façade of ‘shareholder value.’

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In the evening some gathered in the park for musical performances. For more coverage and analysis see Pages 4 & 5.