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Vale informs about strike in Canadian operations

Vale informs that the unionized maintenance and production employees at its operations in Sudbury and Port Colborne, province of Ontario, Canada, went on strike today after rejecting the company's settlement offer for a new three-year collective bargaining agreement.

Our proposal aims to provide the right incentives to labor productivity growth and to enhance the foundations of our long-term competitiveness and capacity to continue to generate value.

The strike affects 3,073 employees at our integrated mining, milling, smelting and refining operations in Sudbury, and 116 employees at our Port Colborne refinery.

In 2008, finished nickel production originated from the Sudbury operations reached 85,300 metric tons, 31% of Vale's total output. Our Port Colborne facility produces platinum group metals, gold and silver intermediate products.

As previously disclosed, the Sudbury and Port Colborne operations began an eight-week shutdown on June 1, 2009, and were scheduled to resume operations on July 27, 2009.

More information



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