

# THE GREATER BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



The Buffalo Building & Construction Trades Council played a major role in the \$187 million Greater Buffalo International Airport Improvement Project on two fronts.

First, the Council's 16-member trade unions unified as one in the summer of 1995 and began a community campaign aimed at achieving a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which would ultimately guarantee that hundreds of construction jobs created by the airport improvement project would be filled with local workers. During that summer, thousands of area construction workers were joined by representatives of other Western New York labor unions and elected officials as they marched in several high-profile demonstrations held at the suburban Buffalo airport and in Downtown Buffalo.

Gaining across-the-board support by focusing a public spotlight on the need for "Local Jobs For Local Workers," the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's board of directors subsequently shifted gears and approved a PLA for the airport project.

Commenting on the Buffalo Building & Construction Trades Council during a live interview with WNED-AM (970) on July 17, 1996, Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski said: "I want to say the Building Trades have played a **very positive role** in this community. They have been the subject of an awful lot of criticism recently... because of the Project Labor Agreement request at the airport. **Some of the propaganda being leveled at the unions in**

**the construction industry I think is unfair and groundless.** I think you'll agree with me that despite all the accusations being made at the construction trades... the fact of the matter is these projects, and the one we will put up at the (new county) courthouse, came in below budget. I think that's a true reflection of the quality of the construction trades here in Western New York."