

KootenayReport

This article is being written at the end of the second week of September 2008. I had the privilege of spending the latter part of August making my first trip to the Maritime's and we managed a sort of drive-by-shooting with cameras. We saw four beautiful provinces rich with 400 years of Canadian history and with fresh cod and lobster never had a bad meal. In spite of that, it is great to be back in the Kootenay region enjoying the warm fall weather and filling the woodshed in preparation for winter.



Chuck Chatten
Executive Board
Member, and Business
Representative

I'm able to report that we still have a good number of our members working under the ALLIED HYDRO COUNCIL agreement at the Brilliant Expansion Project and the Revelstoke Unit #5 Project. Since Labour Day we've seen several high scalers head for the Kicking Horse Pass and pipelayers start on projects in the Golden-Invermere-Fernie area. Dawson Construction recently picked up a nice contract at Crawford Bay that will be underway shortly. Western Industrial Contractors have been steady with substation and hydro-electric dam renovations keeping local 1611 members busy in the Nelson-Castlegar area. The folks at the Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation state that the Waneta Expansion Project process is "on track" and looking positive. I will be doing area meetings and field trips this fall and look forward to helping out with any questions or issues. I'd like to thank our members and job stewards for protecting our jurisdiction and brother Brian Cox for looking after Local 1611's interests in August in the Kootenay region.

Please don't forget to contact YOUR Local 1611 representative if you think an opportunity to improve a friend or neighbour's standard of living exists by having them join a union or organize. Working people – being all of us wage earners – need a UNION and collective agreement to protect our standard of living. Hope to hear from you soon!!!

Take care.

ALERT: JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are in a period of severe supply shortage in the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island. We need skilled and experienced members and new recruits in the following classifications.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

- Hi-Rise Labourers • Carpenter Helpers • Concrete Labourers/Vibrator
- Riggers • First Aid Attendants

UNDERGROUND WORK

- Construction miners • Underground Labourers

ROAD BUILDING/UTILITY WORK

- Rakerpersons • Graderspersons • Pipelayers • Surveyors • Drillers and Blasters • High Scalers • Flag Persons (high volume traffic)

INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE PLANTS

- Carpenters • Concrete Finishers • Concrete Labourers • Steel Tiers

If you have any of these skills, or if you know someone who has any of these skills, call our Vancouver Dispatch Office at 1-800-663-6588 or our Victoria Office at 1-250-382-1511.

Members must ensure that the Union Dispatch Office has correct unblocked telephone numbers and work experience information, and keep your dues current.

Dispatchers: Liana Biasuti and Merrick Walsh

INSTRUCTORS WANTED

The Construction & Specialized Workers' Training Plan will be offering more training courses throughout the province in the near future in construction and roadbuilding.

Instructors will be needed for the following courses:

- Blueprint Reading – Civil Construction
- Blueprint Reading – Commercial/Industrial
- Concrete related including Placement/Vibration
- Rigging/Slinging/Signaling
- Fall Protection
- Forklift/Manlift/Bobcat
- Survey Leveling/Grade
- Total Station
- Rakerwork
- Drilling and Blasting
- Rock Scaling
- Pipelaying

Depending upon the need, positions may be full time or part time.

If you are interested in teaching courses in your area or throughout the province, fax your resume to Bob Anson, Administrator of the Training Plan or call for more information.

Fax: 604-433-5584, Phone: 604-433-5523 or 1-800-661-3001

Local 1611 Supporting Communities

Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;

- Collingwood Days • Leukemia and Lymphoma Society • Nigel Services for Adults with Disabilities Society • Miners Memorial Day Event • Douglas College Foundation • Vancouver Police, Victoria Emergency Services • Hispanic Community Centre of B.C. • Lower Mainland Police Association Charitable Society



Above: Western Industrial Contractors (WIC): Kitimat Project – August



Right: Labourers International First Nations Representative, Clarence Bob (left) and Richard Labonne, in front of the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association office – August



Above: Viking Construction: Kitimat Pool Project – August.

Challenges and Accomplishments

The positive work picture for most areas of the province continues to drive the Union forward.

Worked hours are up 31% since 2005, the Union and its important Funds are all in a surplus position, and we have been able to invest increased funds in organizing and recruitment efforts all around British Columbia.



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

Monthly Union dues for members and retirees will not be increased in 2009, and that is good news. Monthly Union dues to stay the same.

We will also be increasing scholarship opportunities for our membership in 2009.

We need to advise and inform members however about the upcoming raid period in the construction industry. November and December are the months when other Unions may try and organize workers of other Unions. We do not and will not raid other legitimate Unions.

However other organizations do not share our view. We are very proud of our membership last year, as not one member signed with another Union. Not one. And we thank you.

On behalf of your Executive Board and fellow members, we ask again that members not sign a card with any other Union during this raid period.

We appreciate the efforts and support of the membership and will continue to do the best we can on your behalf.

Take care, and above all please work safe.



- Bechtel – Kitimat Project Agreement
- Universal Flagging
- Accurate Concrete Cutting Inc.
- Standard Pole
- Hybrid Traffic Control
- Greeley Rock Ltd.
- International Paper Industries (LRB hearing ongoing)

Do you have any organizing targets for the Union? Call Manuel Alvernaz, Chief Organizer at (604)437-6889 ext. 222. All inquires confidential.

Far left: Farmer Construction: "Juliet" condo, nearing completion.

Top: Farmer Construction: Bayview condo, nearing completion.

Bottom: Farmer Construction: Dockside Green Phase II - twin towers.

Fall 2008 Volume Six Issue Two • Construction and Specialized Workers' Union Local 1611 represents 6000 members in BC and the Yukon

This Newsletter has been mailed to all members in the construction, road building, pipeline, paving, utility, mining, diamond drilling, and industrial plant sectors.

FastFacts

You need to know about your Union Labourers' Local 1611

- Members have worked 95,000 more hours in 2008 over 2007, for an increase of 4%
- Our Medical and Dental Plan is industry leading in overall benefits
- Our Pension Plan is the best funded in the industry at 115%
- Our monthly and working dues are amongst the lowest in the industry
- The Union has run in a surplus financial position since the start of 2004
- There will be no increase in monthly membership dues next year in 2009
- We are committed to organizing in all sectors.



Left: Smith Bros. & Wilson at a Seniors Home in North Vancouver, George Fossum, Labour Foreman.

Below: Mutual Construction at the Neptune Terminals in North Van. Kingston Construction is on site as well.



ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

Since our Spring 2008 newsletter, Local 1611 has organized, certified and/or signed Collective Agreements with these companies;

Future Opportunities Promising

I would like to begin by extending warm personal regards to all our Local Union members. Our Local Union Retiree Council has events planned for **Prince George, Revelstoke, Castlegar, Kelowna, Kamloops and Osoyoos** and will also be hosting **Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver** members later this year.



Bruce Ferguson
President

On the work front most of our members have had a decent opportunity thus far. Overall **hours are up** over last year and **future opportunities look promising**. In addition to my constitutional duties as your President and serving as a Trustee on your various trust funds, I also serve as a Field Representative with responsibilities to look after over 500 members working for various employers;

1. APS Architectural Precast Structures Ltd.
2. Con-Force Structures Ltd.
3. A&B Rail Contractors Ltd.
4. Pacific Northern Rail Contractors Inc.
5. Bosa Construction Co. Ltd.
6. Contractors employed at both the Chevron and Petro Canada Refineries

Bosa Construction Co. Ltd. has been very busy this year with several residential high-rise projects in White Rock, Burnaby, Vancouver, Coquitlam and soon to commence a project at UBC.

I am pleased to also report that all of your **various trust funds**; your Pension and Medical plans, Labourers' Training Trust Fund, Labourers' Advancement and Local Union Treasury are all in **sound financial shape**. I hope everyone took the time to read your Benefit Newsletter and to learn that you have the best overall Medical Plan coverage in the construction industry.

I reported to you in earlier communication that your Business Manager Mark Olsen Chaired the Construction Bargaining Council that achieved your **current Standard Agreement**. Brother Mark also chaired the Industry Bargaining Committee that successfully negotiated the new **Construction Industry Substance Abuse Policy**. Brother Olsen also deserves recognition for Chairing the team that recently signed a **Project Agreement** that includes first class rates and conditions that will be used to **build the new \$2.5 billion dollar Rio Tinto Aluminum Smelter at Kitimat B.C.** This new Project will provide gainful employment for approximately three and a half years for many members.

Well that is all for now, see you at your next Union meeting, and please work safe and stay healthy.



Above: Part of CSWU Local 1611 labour crew working for Bosa Construction on the Presidia Towers

Right: Bosa Persidia II Residential highrise in Burnaby, B.C.

Work Picture Strong

Our work picture around B.C. remains very strong. We now have a signed project agreement in place for the Alcan smelter rebuild in Kitimat which will run for about three years, and a new camp going in.

The current work in B.C. and proposed projects has increased \$39.5 billion in the second quarter of this year for a record high of \$167 billion. This is a 31% increase from 2007. Our worked hours in 2008 to July are up 4% from the same period in 2007.

During these good economic times we are taking the opportunity to **upgrade our phone systems**. In order to deliver more convenient service, Vancouver Island now has a toll free 800 number for the members and contractors who live on the island.

A new feature that is being installed around mid September is an **auto call dial out phone system**. This will give the Union the ability to have customized, taped messages phoned out in the evenings. This will be used for such things as shutdown work, jobs to be filled or notice of area meetings and many other possibilities. We expect this feature to be operational this October.

We look forward to the members having good employment opportunities past the Olympics and into 2012 at this point. **With all the work we require more skilled construction workers. If you have relatives or friends with experience who want to join, send them in to see us.**

With the Alcan project to start this fall, the Local will be **opening an office in Kitimat** to service the work and area. We expect to have about 250-300 members working at the height of the project. **Matt McGreish** will be relocating as the Business Representative for the area.

In the Dispatch Department we have hired Merrick Walsh as a new dispatcher. When Matt McGreish leaves for Kitimat, Liana Biasutti will move from dispatch to a field representative position and another new dispatcher will fill her spot. This should take place near November 1, 2008.

Finally, with the federal government's recognition that the work done by Labourers' is skill based, they have designated us as an apprenticeship craft with **Red Seal Designation!** The process of putting all the pieces in place across Canada has started and we expect the provincial government will be ready and we will have our first provincially registered apprentices entering the program in 2010.

In the Road Utility Sector the provincial government is bringing in an apprentice program that will give employees a certificate upon completion. This sector also appears to be a module in the construction Red Seal Program.

In closing we are headed for another federal and municipal election. Look at the record of the candidates and the party do we need to elect people who are anti-worker, anti-Union? Politicians forget they must represent all the citizens not just the special interests of a few.

On your job sites if another trade is doing our work please call the Union. A representative will go out to the site and make sure we do our work and not lose it to others. Remember it could be you sitting at home while another trade does your work!

Take care.



Richard (Rick) Clarkson
Secretary Treasurer

Vancouver Island Report



Don Brown
Vice President, and
Business Representative

The General Contractors employing our members are completing some **large projects** any may get the go ahead on new projects for well established developers. Most financial forecasts predict fewer residential units will come on stream in the near term.

Farmer Construction has started the concrete structure at Town and Country Plaza. The first phase of the project includes a large two level Wal-Mart supercentre with an underground parkade. The work will entail pouring a large volume of concrete in a relatively short time frame. Several of Farmer's condo projects are at an advanced stage of completion.

Campbell Construction has crews working at Victoria General Hospital, the Colwood Casino, and the Concert Properties site on the Selkirk Waterfront.

Campbell will also be working on a couple of sites currently being prepared by drilling and excavating contractors. One site is an office tower in a prominent location on Blanshard between Johnson and Yates.

The other project is a new tower at the Royal Jubilee Hospital being built by a consortium as a **Public Private Partnership**. Campbell Construction will be responsible for the formwork and concrete structure.

There have been fewer highway rehabilitation projects on the Island this year. The Union **paving contractors** are working on municipal projects, subdivisions, and parking lots for big box outlets.

A couple of crews from **Chew Excavating** have been working on a scenic ocean view subdivision in Sooke. The work included connecting to the recently opened sewage treatment plant. The regular seasonal work for municipalities, plus Hydro, Telus, and Teresan gives the members a steady run.

It is encouraging to have a strong economy and improved Collective Agreements for members to enjoy a decent standard of living.



Kingston Construction at Knight Street Bridge (left) and Mitchell Island (right).

BEWARE THE IDES OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

These are the **raid period** months under the **Standard ICI Construction Agreement**.

DO NOT sign a card with any other Union. As everyone knows, Unions who are **wall-to-wall**, (meaning representing **everyone**), have **substandard** wage and benefit packages for the work that our members perform. That is why some Employers want to go with only one Union.

DO NOT BE FOOLED! SAY NO!

DO NOT sign a card with another Union and call your area Local 1611 Business Representative to advise. **We appreciate members support.**

NOTE: Last year **not one** Local 1611 member signed with another Union and we thank you.

BOYCOTTS/DO NOT PATRONIZE

WAL-MART: Over treatment of Unionized workers in Quebec

PRICE SMART (FOOD STORES): Requested by UFCW

NON-UNION POSTAL OUTLETS: Requested by CUPW

GOODYEAR TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY:
(Goodyear and Motomaster tires) as requested by CLC

Send a letter to your local area MLA and MP and ask them to get involved and support the workers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please do **not** go to work for **JVD, ICL, IDL, and SPL**. These companies are signed **wall-to-wall** with other Unions.

If you work for these companies, our other members lose work, and our signatory contractors lose jobs.

We realize this is a difficult decision for members, but we ask for members support to not work for these companies.



Above: Campbell Construction - Aria Condo (rear) over Lawn Bowling Club.

Right: Campbell Construction - renovation and addition to Victoria General Hospital.

Below: Campbell Construction - Great Canadian Casino.

