

CSWU LOCAL 1611
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS
IN 2012

Your Union News

Fall 2011 Volume Nine 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, industrial plant, and dock & shipyard sectors.

KootenayReport

Greetings Folks and what a short summer we've had – good for having fewer forest fires and I'm just starting to get my winter wood split and into the shed. Hopefully the fall will be warm and pleasant before old man winter is upon us again.

The Kootenay area has been quite busy so far this year and unless things go absolutely haywire with the stock market crashing or some other catastrophic event it seems likely that the work picture will remain positive. Kiewit presently has about 20 members at Mica Creek and placed their first concrete for BC Hydro at Unit 5 in the beginning of August. They will be hiring and laying off until Unit 6 is underway and will then be needing more of our members to get the chores done. **Dent Construction** and **Andritz** will also take on some more of Local 1611's skilled workers. Traveling south and east to Golden finds **Emil Anderson** building road, overpasses and paving at the entry to the Kicking Horse Pass. Shutdown work at Skookumchuck pulp mill and in the coal fields further east have seen good earnings (although short term) and south near Creston where **Imasco** continues to work year round for east Kootenay members. Heading west past Nelson sees **WIC** and **Local 1611** taking care of business on dams owned by Fortis and the Celgar pulp mill. South again puts us at the BC/US border where the **Waneta Expansion project** celebrated 415,000 hours of no Lost Time Accidents while employing about 60 Local 1611 members. With Emil Anderson drilling, blasting and high scaling on surface, **Aecon** is chomping at the bit to start placing powerhouse concrete – probably an early November start. **Redpath** started a month late but are now just ahead of schedule with the tunnels.

Teck Metals has contracted out the engineering to AMEC for a new Slag Furnace at their Trail Operations which might be in the \$200 million range and could start in the spring of 2012 (major projects) and I've been touching bases with CPC and CBT folks who might be looking at another powerhouse expansion at the Duncan Dam near Kaslo. This would not start until around 2015. Negotiations for the **Kootenay Roadbuilding Agreement** commence again this fall as does Imasco's also IF a PSEC group (teachers/nurses/college instructors/etc.) gets a wage increase it will trigger negotiations for the AHC Agreement.

I want to end by expressing our deep THANKS to our Training Plan for their excellent work in upgrading our membership in the Kootenays.

Cheers.



Chuck Chatten
Business Representative

NorthernReport

The summer construction season is well underway and I am happy to report that the north has almost all of our members working. We have recorded employment at the **Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA)** site with close to 150 members working on site.

Demolition of 7 & 8 Pot Lines is well underway at the RTA site. The Atco construction camp is slated to open after the Labour Day weekend. The underground utility corridor is advancing forward on a daily basis. **Western Industrial Contractors (WIC)** will start construction of the new service reduction building at the end of August. Hope is the notice to proceed from RTA will happen in the next month or two, so **Bechtel** can have the green light to build the new aluminum plants.

Elsewhere in the north, **BFI Constructors** has started work at Mt. Milligan. Members are on site pouring mud slabs in preparation for footings and walls. There are roughly 20 members working on site at this time. Work at Northwood Pulp is well underway with **WIC**. **Farr Construction** and **Cam-tech Industries** on site on the new Co-gen Plant. Northwood also has a shutdown starting the last week in August till the third week in September, this is good news for the members in Prince George.

After a slow start in the spring the members in the roadbuilding sector are now working paving and installing underground utilities, employing many of our members in the north.

At this time I would like to welcome all the new members in Kitimat and Prince George, it's an honour to act as your representative. Till my next letter, worksafe and if you need to contact me phone 250.279.1700.



Mat McGreish
Business Representative

Okanagan&InteriorReport

Greetings. Cooler nights are on the way. The extended winter and unseasonably cold spring meant a slow start to many of the ongoing projects in our area. Most of them are now nearing completion. The project at Sorrento with **Brentwood Enterprise Ltd.** is winding down. The **Dawson Construction Ltd.** job at McIure is all but complete. **Emil Anderson Construction Ltd.** is still working at Golden on their design build project. **Brentwood Enterprise Ltd.** is also at Mica and EAC Ltd. is also at Wanteta.

We had a number of members at **Domtar** for the Shutdown this spring. Some contractors have continued with the upgrades to the mill, utilizing some of our members. With an end to the government stimulus money, new projects in our already depressed area were few and far between. The competition for projects was fiercer than ever. EAC Ltd. although losing a couple of earlier tenders to non-union contractors were the low bidder on the Trans-Canada Highway 1, 4 Laning Project near Pritchard. That project will continue well onto 2012.

Dawson Construction Ltd. has secured several smaller projects in the area including some for the City of Kamloops. They also have some work in the Fort St. John area. **CGL Contracting Ltd.** has also had a busy year, with a lot of smaller projects to keep our members working.

It has been exceptionally quiet in the area for projects. This should improve in the coming months and year. Hopefully the large infusion of capital for projects in the North will trickle down, creating some work for our area members.

Remember to keep your contact information current with Dispatch in Vancouver at 1.800.663.6588. Have a Healthy and Happy Autumn and please Work Safe.



Leroy Vollans
Business Representative

ProjectLabourAgreements A Thing Of The Present

Project Labour Agreements (PLA) are here to stay in BC. A PLA is a good thing, which ensures that our Union, along with other involved craft based trade unions, secure much needed construction and roadbuilding work for our membership.

What PLA's are in place now?

- Bechtel (Rio Tinto) Aluminum Smelter Project in Kitimat.
- BFI – Mt. Milligan Gold Mine near Fort St. James
- Aecon – Sunset Creek Compressor Station in the north.
- Lockerbie & Hole – Endako Mine near Prince George
- Bencor/McNally/Aecon – Water Tunnel in the Lower Mainland.

What other PLA's are being negotiated now, or will be, if the Project is approved?

- KBR – LNG Project in Kitimat.
- Evergreen Line Tunnel Contractor – Lower Mainland.
- Early Works Contract – at Kitimat LNG.
- Covanta – Waste-to-Energy Project in Gold River.
- Casino/Hotel Project – in Vancouver.
- With other Multi-national companies, on other potential industrial projects in the north.

Why are Contractors and Clients embracing PLA's with Craft Unions like ours?

- Our ability to supply available qualified members.
- Our ability to access additional Union members from across Canada/USA if necessary.
- Good track record providing work for local residents and for aboriginal peoples.
- Excellent Training Plan.
- Union support for Helmets to Hardhats program for returning war veterans.
- Stability through no-strike /no-lockout provision, and in wage and benefit costs.
- Industry-wide substance abuse/rehabilitation policy.
- Stability of the workforce, because if the company signs with CLAC, we will raid, as we did with Bilfinger Berger and Frontier Kemper. Or if they employ temporary foreign workers, we will organize them and file any necessary Human Rights case like we did on the RAV Line.

A PLA is a win-win-win-win situation, for the owner, contractor, Union and membership.

Our Union, in concert with other Unions, will do our very best to ensure that the terms and conditions of employment, as much as humanly possible, mirror our Standard Agreement. And we know our members will do the best they can every day, providing a great construction product for the owner.

Take care, and above all stay healthy and work safe.

Local1611SupportingCommunities

Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts:

- BC Child Find's 20th Annual Tournament
- Canadian Red Cross for famine relief in Somalia & Ethiopia



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

Here Are Your Elected Delegates

All by acclamation, to attend the 2011 International Convention

Our Union is an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America – LIUNA

- Bruce Ferguson
- Nav Malhotra
- Shelley Moore
- Leroy Vollans
- Dean Homewood
- Greg Harris
- Manuel Alvernaz
- Chuck Chatten
- Matthew Lust
- Danny Klein
- Tony Parkinson
- Rick Clarkson
- Mat Mc Greish
- Gary Palmiere
- Oscar Sanchez
- Richard Saunders

Mark Olsen, automatic delegate by Business Manager position.

We greatly appreciate the support of our members, and will do the best we can on your behalf.



Emil Anderson scaling crew above the CPR Line at the Kicking Horse Pass in Golden. (l to r) Victor Monette (foreman), Brocton Kruchio, Arlen Fitzpatrick, Nicolas Tsoukalas, Derek Cummings.



At the Wanetta Project, ASL Joint Venture. (l to r) Mark Olsen (Business Manager), Don Fitzpatrick, Tim Lucht, Darrell Luke, Shane Haines, Gordon Zeboroff (Job Steward), Robert Dawson and Chuck Chatten (Business Representative).

BEWARE THE IDES OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

These are the **raid period** months under the **Labourers' 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: The last 3 years **not one** Local 1611 member signed with another Union and we thank you.

BalanceOfTheYearLooksGood

As I write this report we are at approximately late summer. Thus far the weather has been unseasonably dull and chilly. However, the sun has finally broken through and I remain hopeful that we can expect some good weather for the next month or so!

Benefits Newsletter

Members enrolled in either our Union's Medical and/or Pension Plan should have by now received your annual Benefits Newsletter. I commend the article from your Union's Business Manager Brother Mark Olsen who also chairs your Medical Plans Board of Trustees.

In his article entitled 'Liberals Health Record Poor' Brother Mark highlights the fact that BC is the **only province** in Canada to have an **MSP premium**. That the Provincial Liberals negotiated a lousy deal that requires citizens in BC to pay **20% more for generic drugs** than citizens in Ontario, and how we are all being ripped off when the BC Government established the sham called the **Pacific Carbon Trust**.

Think Politics

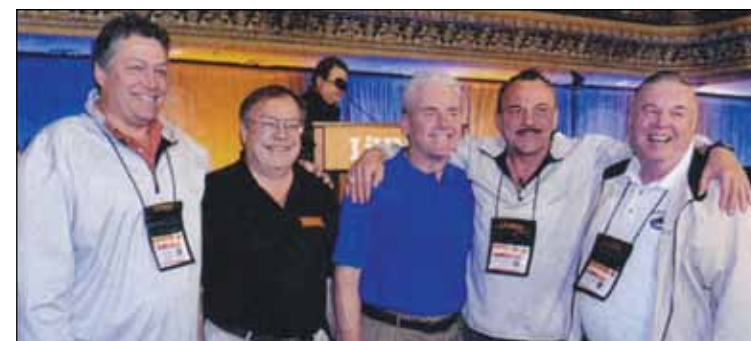
Please think above these issues when you mark your next Provincial election ballot!

Recognition Given

I would also like our members to know about the good work of our Chief Union Organizer Brother **Manuel Alvernaz**. Brother Alvernaz despite our Provinces rotten labour laws, along with our representatives and organizing staff, has organized 65 new companies to union agreements during the course of the last 5 years. Manuel is worth his weight in gold.

A second staff member Brother **Nav Malhotra** who is responsible for looking after several different sectors covering security, parking lots, cemetery, crematorium, waste disposal, janitorial and recycling industries with the assistance of retired Union Representative Brother **Dennis Morgan** has all of the several hundred members he looks after now under new collective agreements. Nav will be a real asset for our union and no doubt one of the leaders for our union for many years to come. Brother Malhotra has also been appointed as a 'Trustee in Training' on both your Union's Medical and Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Well that is all for now, stay healthy and work safe, and I look forward to seeing all of you at your next area union meeting, and on the job sites I take care of. Warm fraternal regards.



June 15, 2011 following the LIUNA Multi-Regional Conference in Chicago. Mark Olsen, Manuel Alvernaz, and Bruce Ferguson with distinguished gentlemen, Terry O'Sullivan our LIUNA General President (blue shirt), and Mano Frey our LIUNA Northwest Regional Vice-President (black shirt).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our member Ted Mosterd's son, Conley for being awarded the 2011 W. Vernie Reed Memorial Scholarship of \$2,300 U.S.



Bruce Ferguson
President

VolatileTimesBut WorkPictureStrong

Here we are 2/3 of the way through the year. After a miserable spring and early summer we finally get sunshine and warmth just in time before the start of the PNE and rain. I hope this year will bring us a great late summer that will stretch into late November. (One can only wish).

We are still in volatile times but Union statistics show bright spots;

- worked hours province wide all sectors up 17%,
- Union deficit cut by 68%,
- enabled jobs down from 60% to just 15%,
- most collective agreements successfully re-negotiated and ratified by the respective membership.

While we continue to run a small deficit, I think I see light at the end of 2.5 years of slow work opportunities for our members as a result of the American lead recession. Our work picture is strong and getting stronger. For the first time since the early 70's we are seeing camp jobs and large projects starting to come on stream.

It is my opinion that the unionized sector and all workers has been under attack by the Liberal government. They changed the injured workers benefits, cut pensions awards and rejected claims. The Labour Board no longer appears to be neutral with decision after decision against the unions and even lawyers crying foul and anti-union bias. We have had all kinds of hidden tax increases that take more of your hard earned money.

I think we will see a provincial election soon and it's time for a change.



Rick Clarkson
Secretary Treasurer

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED?

1. Call the Labourers' Membership Services Plan and speak with W.C.B. Workers' Advocate, Richard Saunders, 604.437.6889.
2. Call the Medical Plan, 604.437.8598, to see if you are eligible for wage loss benefits.

OrganizingReport

On behalf of the Organizing Department, I am pleased to report that we have organized twelve (12) companies this year so far. Thanks to our Business Rep's, Contractor Relations Rep., Business Manager, President, Dispatchers, Legal Counsel and of course our members.

Recently, our Business Manager, President and myself, travelled to Victoria to lobby two ministers for the \$30 million dollar precast work for the Rio Tinto/Alcan, which was about to go offshore, losing about 100 of our precast members jobs for a year. We also had three meetings with two Vancouver councillors, Port Moody Mayor and two MLAs lobbying for Covanta's Waste-to-Energy Project.

We have been working very hard top down trying to sign PLA Project Labour Agreements, and focusing on raiding CLAC companies as our targets. We need your help brothers and sisters, if you have any friends you know or anybody working for CLAC companies so please give me a call, it will be strictly confidential 604.323.4442.

We are also working now, on four targets, three top down and one bottom up, but we still need that CLAC raiding target from you for this Fall. So Brothers and Sisters let's work together, and we will successfully raid CLAC with your support.



Manuel Alvernaz
Chief Organizer

VancouverIslandReport



Mathew Lust
Business Representative

Hello again from Vancouver Island. Wow, we are into mid-August already, I hope all are doing well. At this time negotiations for the paving, and utility sector have been completed, and have gone quite well. Bargaining together with the Tri-pac, we were able to get some good new language regarding hiring and signing up new people. Come on in and have a chat, and see how it works. Along with the language, we also were able to get wage increases for regular members, as well as for our trainees, all good news. Thanks to Tim Cullen (OE's) and Dave Angus (Teamsters) for all their help, and support. I would especially like to **thank Dal Chernask** for his openness in help, guidance and support at the table, and behind the scenes, providing knowledge that only comes with experience. I am sure that all who benefit from his work will appreciate it as well.

Going into the fall, **Victoria Shipyards** are in full swing with the **FELEX Project** well underway. I have had a full guided tour of HMCS Calgary (thanks to **Rick Spencer**) and have seen firsthand the excellent work our people are doing down there. In the construction sector **Farmer Construction** has broken ground downtown at the Sovereign Condo Project, **Campbell Construction** continues with various jobs all around the South Island. **Chew Excavating** continues at Coho, the Colwood Strip, Uptown Project, and elsewhere. **Upland Excavating** is low bidding a job up in Holberg, and as usual the paving sector is busy all over the Island.

Work safe everybody, stay healthy and see you soon.

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

There are 3 different scholarships that our members or their dependents can apply for:

- **Roland B. Gordon Memorial** - offered through CSWU Local 1611. All information requested must be in by the last day of October.
- **W. Vernie Reed Memorial Fund** - offered through the Labourers' International Union. All information requested must be in by April 1.
- **Cal Callahan Memorial Bursary** - offered through the Pipeline Industry for the sons, daughters or legal wards of members who derive their principal income from the Pipeline Industry. All information requested must be in by the 30th of September.

Contact the CSWU Local 1611 office for the applications.

ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

Local 1611 has organized, certified and/or signed Collective Agreements with twelve companies from January to August 2011

- Advance Underwater Imaging Inc.
- BFI Constructors Ltd.
- 3D's Concrete Ltd.
- Acer Contracting Ltd.
- Sehbar Landscaping Ltd.
- Quadra Industrial Refractory Services Ltd.
- McNally/Aecon Joint Venture
- Westrock Custom Breaking
- Germain Favel Specialized Services Inc.
- Aecon Industrial Inc.
- Wayne Christensen (Bencor Canada)
- Blue Horizon Contracting

Many thanks to members who have given us tips, and members who have worked as 'salts' assisting us in organizing drives.

Do you know any organizing targets, or do you have friends and relatives who work non-union or CLAC and can help us?

Please contact Manuel Alvernaz, our Chief Organizer at 604.437.6889 or his cell 604.323.4442. ALL INQUIRES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

Report

LOWER MAINLAND CONSTRUCTION & ROADBUILDING

After a late start to the summer, thankfully the utility and paving sector has taken off and the majority of our members have been busy at work. The utility companies **B & B Contracting**, **Gemco**, and **Delta Aggregates** have all but completed the remainder of any enabled projects. The bulk of the work is being done at the full rates, but for any job that is paying the enabled rate, and you are unsure of this, please contact your Business Representatives to ensure that you are being paid the appropriate rate of pay.

Bencor has started the first of two shifts for the shaft which will start in late 2012 for the Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel Project. The tunnel portion of the project will be done by the **McNally/Aecon Joint Venture**.

Michels Canada is almost done working in False Creek and are currently awaiting results of three small tunnels and a cut and cover project in Maple Ridge. **Bel Pacific** has started civil work on the South Perimeter Road. **Bayhill** is also doing very well. There are some companies that are not as busy and hopefully this will no doubt change in the near future.

This time of the year with so many ongoing work sites, the companies are hiring new employees all the time and they may or may not be union members.

It is difficult for the Business Representatives to track employees as they move from site-to-site. It is in all members' best interests to be properly registered with the Union. Imagine if you, a union member, are missing work while a non-union employee is working. Contact the Business Representative so as to deny the company this unfair advantage, where they do not have to remit to the benefit plan and as such are less expensive to employ.

Last year when work slowed, the Union was then contacted by certain members who wanted to know why they were not working when other employees not registered were. Letting your Business Reps and dispatch know right away, will prevent the companies from using this practice.



Dan Klein
Business Representative



Gary Palmiere
Business Representative



Manuel Alvernaz (l) with Bruce Ferguson (r) presents a Union jacket to long time member Prosper Doom.



Local 1611 members (l to r), Connie Roberts, Gerda Tarpey, Leroy Vollans (Business Rep.), and Coralee Roberts pause for a picture at the Dawson jobsite at Mclure.



Training Plan instructor, Ray Wynne (back row, far right), holding a pipeline course in Castlegar.