

Exercise Your Rights

As a worker in B.C., you have the legal right to:

- Training in safe work procedures and how to recognize on-the-job hazards.
- Supervision to make sure you work without unnecessary risk.
- Employer-provided safety equipment required for your job (though you're responsible for safety footwear and headgear).
- Refusal of work you think is unsafe – without being fired or disciplined for refusing.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

- Explain to your immediate supervisor why you're not comfortable.
- If your immediate supervisor is unavailable or doesn't give you a good answer, go to his or her supervisor.
- If you're still not satisfied, talk to your safety representative, a member of the safety committee, or your job steward.



Richard Saunders
Workers' Advocate



Above: Kootenay members receiving instruction from Rick Alexander from our training plan in the rigging course (February 2008)



Right: CSWU members working at a Bosa project in the lower mainland.

DISPATCH REPORT

The winter months have slowed down the volume of dispatches coming through the office. In the past week the calls have started, with the work picture improving. We do anticipate a **need for qualified pipelayers, grademen, asphalt rakers, and WCB certified traffic control persons over the next few months.**

Please ensure that you have yourself registered with the out of work board if you are available and that your information is current. If you are working, please let dispatch know, so that your work history is updated.



Lianna Biasuti
Dispatcher

Lower Mainland News

The work picture has been fairly busy to say the least. Projects have included the Fraser Valley College Project by **WIC (Western Industrial Contracting)**, on the old army base in Chilliwack, utility work by Gemco in the same area. **Columbia Bitulithic** has done road repairs/upgrades in Chilliwack and north on the freeway to Hope. **Chet Construction** and **Span Valley** continue to stay busy in the Abbotsford – Chilliwack areas. **Progressive Contracting, B&B Contracting, South West Contracting, Gemco, Springline** are still busy in Surrey and Langley.



Dean Homewood
Lower Mainland
Business Representative

Work on the **Bilfinger Berger** Twin Tunnel Project in North Vancouver, has been scaled back. While digging with the tunnel boring machine, the crew came across some explosive rock, the company did some investigating and shut down the tunneling with workers' safety in mind. The GVRD, (the client) is currently doing tests and holding meetings with Bilfinger Berger trying to decide how to proceed.

Work on the **Golden Ears Bridge** is flying along. Currently we have almost 200 members on site. The Union recently organized a sub-contractor to Bilfinger Berger called **Baulex Projects**, 75 new workers are now members. The Union has held proposal meetings and is currently drafting a proposal to give to the company. There are several of our Union contractors sub-contracting to Bilfinger Berger. **Bel-Pacific, Mutual Construction, Gemco, Columbia Bitulithic, BA Blacktop,** and South West Contracting have all done work on the project as well.

I would like to start out by introducing myself to the membership. My name is Dan Klein and I was hired as a Business Representative in January 2008. **My current portfolio includes Lower Mainland construction areas and Traffic Control/Flagging Sector.**



Danny Klein
Lower Mainland
Business Representative

I would ask that the membership be patient with me as I learn the unique needs of each sector and bring myself up-to-date on the outstanding issues. I have been a member of LIUNA for 20 years, becoming more involved with Local 1611 through organizing drives with SELI and Bilfinger Berger. I look forward to doing the best I can for the membership of Local 1611.

Since our last newsletter I have assumed a position as Business Representative for the Lower Mainland joining Dean Homewood and Danny Klein.

On behalf of the membership, my goal is to visit as many sites as I can in the near future. Please phone the Union office with site information. I look forward to hearing from you.



Mat McGreish
Lower Mainland
Business Representative

BROWSE THE WEB

OUR LOCAL 1611 WEBSITE IS NEW AND IMPROVED. TAKE A LOOK AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

- See interesting news and other links.
- Scholarship information and forms are available.
- Automatic dues deduction forms are also available.
- You can also print Medical Plan forms. www.cswu1611.org

Challenges and Accomplishments

We have just entered the first year of our Union's 5 Year Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012. Within that plan, we have accomplished several goals already, including the establishment of an Organizing Department; a system to measure our efforts; Training Plan Study; and improvements to our Medical/Dental benefits for covered members.



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

We have also hired additional employees, and shuffled work portfolio's. We ask that members be patient and supportive, as the new representatives gain experience.

- New organizers – Oscar Sanchez, Nav Malhotra, and Chris White.
- Lower Mainland construction and roadbuilding Business Representatives – Dean Homewood, Mat McGreish, and Danny Klein.
- New Healthcare Business Representative – Shelley Moore (our Recording Secretary on our Executive Board).

We know that our new employees, and current employees with new job duties, will do the best they can on your behalf.

Our Union, Your Union, is moving ahead, and we have much to accomplish together.

Please take the time to read this publication and call your Business Representative with any comments. We want to ensure it is relevant to you.

Take care and above all please work safe.



Left: Bosa's Persidia residential complex construction site White Rock, B.C.

Below: CSWU Local 1611 members working at Persidia residential tower.



CSWU LOCAL 1611
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS
IN 2012

Spring 2008 Volume Six Issue One • 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.



Left: Bosa's Axiom residential tower construction site in Burnaby, B.C.

Below: Members on lunch break at the Axiom residential project, Burnaby, B.C.



ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

So far in 2008 Local 1611 has organized, certified, or signed Collective Agreements with these companies;

- Baulex Projects Inc.
- B-1 Traffic Control
- One Stop Safety Services
- Prism Contracting

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

FAST FACTS You need to know about your Union Labourers' Local 1611

- Members worked 5.5 million hours in 2007, an increase of 9% over 2006
- 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.

Congratulations and thanks to construction members of local 1611 for their continued support.

In the recent raid period (November and December) in the construction industry in B.C., **not one** member of Local 1611 signed a card with another Union! Not one! **Great job and great thanks.** - Mark Olsen, Business Manager



GoodNews

Business Manager, Mark Olsen has assigned new responsibilities to the Lower Mainland field representatives, and so has directed me to service our Union members in both the Precast and Railway Maintenance Industries. For the Precast Industry this includes our members employed by both **Con-force Structures Ltd.** and **APS Architectural Precast Structures Ltd.** and in the Railway Maintenance Industry our members employed by **PNR Railway Ltd.** and **A&B Rail.**

Additionally I have been directed to service our membership at both the **Petro-Canada Refining** and the **Chevron Refinery.** Brother Mark has also directed me to service our membership employed by **Daret Construction Inc. (BOSA)** who are currently building several residential high rise towers, as well as commercial and recreational projects.

New Kitimat Smelter, recently your Local Union met with officials from **Bechtel Canada Co.** who has been engaged to undertake the **Kitimat Aluminum Smelter Modernization Project.** Terms and conditions of a Project Labour Agreement for this **two billion dollar,** three and one half year Project were discussed and we are hopeful that a final agreement will soon be achieved.

In closing stay healthy and work safe.



Part of the APS Architectural Precast Structures Ltd. during their lunch break, March 2008.



Bruce Ferguson
President

UnionOnTheMoveUp

With another winter behind us, we head into what I hope will be a nice spring and great summer. Of general interest to all of you; In 2007 we had over 5.5 million hours of work by our members which was a 9% increase over 2006. **WE ARE MOVING FORWARD TO OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2012.**

The work picture differs around the province with pockets of little work to areas of strong work opportunity. All economic indicators suggest that British Columbia will have strong construction work right through 2012-2013.

Currently the Metro Vancouver and Victoria areas are booming and we need more skilled members. Some great news for the North and Western part of B.C. The Alcan expansion is scheduled to start later this summer in Kitimat and will run into 2011. This will be a camp job with the contractor expecting highly skilled members not inexperienced workers. We may also get some pipeline work up north this summer if it goes Union. You will need to be experienced and have your Pipeline Safety Ticket to be dispatched.

Some great news for our construction members! **Last year the federal government recognized the Labourers as a Red Seal trade across Canada.** It will take time to put all the logistical pieces in place, before a true apprentice program is up and running. We will keep you informed as this program moves forward.

For scholarships, see the information box in this publication.

Take care and worksafe.

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CSWU Local 1611 has the following Scholarships available;

- **Vernie Reed Memorial Scholarship:** All applications must be in by the last working day of March.
- **Rolly B. Gordon:** All applications must be in by the last working day of October.
- **Cal Callahan Pipeline Scholarship:** All applications, from pipeline members, must be received by the Pipeline Contractors Association by September 30.

Please call Donna in our Local 1611 Office at **604-432-9300** for scholarship information.



Richard (Rick) Clark
Secretary Treasurer

IslandReport#1



Don Brown
South Vancouver Island
Business Representative

The **Island Asphalt** crews are out patching and doing smaller jobs on dry days. The curb and sidewalk crews should have another busy year with all the new developments on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. **Chew Excavating** is getting underway on a good sized subdivision in Sooke. They also have their usual hydro, telephone, and service crews on the move.

Both **Campbell Construction** and **Farmer Construction** have projects at various stages of completion. Farmer Construction has ongoing work in Vic West at Bayview and Docks Green, as well as projects downtown and in Metchosin. The first condos and townhouse units at Docks Green will be ready for occupancy this spring and early summer. Phase II towers are well underway and the footings for a waterfront restaurant pub are ready to go. Campbell Construction is in the later stages of building out the Chelsea, the Aria, and their UVIC project. They are going full tilt on the Selkirk Waterfront, Sayward Hill at Cordova Bay, the Cherry Bank, and several smaller projects.

Campbell Construction was scheduled to build the concrete structure as a subcontractor for the Radius project across from the Arena. This project is currently on hold while the developer secures additional financing.

The Victoria area economy remains vibrant with a low unemployment rate. The projections for future growth are positive. The CRD has been mandated by government to design and build a regional sewage treatment system costing over a billion dollars. This should continue to translate into longer term work opportunities for members of our Union. The Collective Agreements for members working in the area are all in place for two or more years with regular increases already negotiated.

IslandReport#2



Dal Chernask
North and Central
Vancouver Island
Business Representative

I am pleased to announce a new "Labourers' Confined Space - Safety Agreement" has been voted on and ratified. The new Agreement contains improvements in each of four years. These are the first **negotiated improvements** to the Confined Space Agreement since inception in 2001.

With the **Terasen LNG Project** in Ladysmith there are many questions and concerns. At writing it appears the Project Agreement signed February 2005 may not be applicable. Terasen has contacted a number of our signatory contractors requesting prices. However, Terasen is telling them it is an open site. I am informed that BCYT is looking into a Project Agreement.

Although we have experienced one of the ugliest winters in a long time the utility sector is off to a good start with a number of projects on the go. It looks to be another busy year. Once again be advised there is a shortage of **experienced** Gradepeople. Please contact your Island Reps if you have the required skills.



Excellent turnout of Local 1611 members at Chilliwack, February 21, 2008 union meeting.

KootenayRegion

Another positive year is ours for the taking

The Kootenay region will experience some paving and roadbuilding sites this summer. Industrial work under the Allied Hydro Council agreement at **Brilliant and Revelstoke Dams** continue as well as the sewer and water pipelaying projects in Revelstoke and the Radium. Invermere areas are getting under way. **Imasco** near Creston continues mining and mills a variety of rock products. The Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation are awaiting federal environment approval for the **Waneta Project.** Their joint-board meeting in March should see the 'Request for Proposals' process commence with a hopeful 2008/2009 winter start for the Waneta Expansion Project.

Please help yourself by being aware of your obligations to benefit yourself through your Union membership. If your employment is terminated for any reason contact your Local 1611 Dispatch Office. I'd like to re-inform our newer members and refresh the memories of our "older" members - be certain to stop by 3542 Kingsway or phone the toll free for dispatch and book in or register for work. You WILL miss employment opportunities if you are not **BOOKED IN** and you must contact dispatch within 90 days to remain on the out-of-work list.

Shifting gears, a huge thank you is extended to **Bob Anson, Rick Alexander and Ray Wynnd** and the **Training Plan Society Staff** for all their efforts in the Kootenay region during 2007 and ongoing training in 2008. The Training Plan has recently assisted over 200 Kootenay region Local 1611 members to acquire much needed training to enhance their employment opportunities anywhere in British Columbia.



Chuck Chatten
Business Representative

RetireeNews



R.L. Mc Donald
Retiree Council President

When you receive this we will have summer knocking on our doorsteps, so let us all stay healthy and enjoy it! **Enjoying life is what we worked for all our working lives and if you are like me, you will want the whole nine yards.**

The Retiree Council would like to remind you that we still have three more meetings in Vancouver this year. The meetings are held at the Craft Centre, (next door to the Union Hall), where it is very comfortable, to enjoy a cup of coffee and doughnuts with some old friends. **Retiree Meetings Sundays at 1:30pm on April 13, July 30, November 16.**

The Council is still working on our summer entertainment and we have not come up with anything solid. We are asking for suggestions, so please put your thinking caps on and attend a meeting. **Of course we will be holding luncheons around the province again this year.**

GOOD NEWS, look for a separate Retiree Council Newsletter in April. We are sure you will enjoy it for it will have plenty of useful information.

CarlStrand • retired December 31, 2007

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES Carl's service to Local 1611 and former Local 1070 is well documented;

- member for 42 years, on Executive Board continuously since 1973
- held numerous positions from Business Representative, Secretary Treasurer, and Business Manager over his 30 years of employment
- Trustee of the Pension Plan since 1980 and Chair since 1995
- Trustee of the Medical Plan since 1983
- Trustee of the Training Plan since 1982 and Chair since 1985
- also served on the Executive Board of Building Trades, Skillplan, Rehabilitation Plan and Delegate of the Vancouver New Westminster Building Trades Council and is an active member of his NDP constituency

On behalf of the Executive Board and the 6,000 members of Local 1611, we wish Carl the very best in his well earned retirement.

- **Mark Olsen, Business Manager**



Carl Strand

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.

Okanagan&InteriorReport

Greetings, Spring 2008 finds **Emil Anderson Construction Ltd.** resuming work on Kelowna's W.R. Bennett Bridge Approaches and **Dawson Construction Ltd.** continuing with several projects in the Kamloops area. In 2008 it should be good for the Road Building Sector. Several jobs are out for tender in the area. The increase in installation of Underground Utilities should create a demand for experienced pipelayers again this year. A shutdown at **Domtar Kamloops** is tentatively scheduled for late April.

Several 1611 members are on the Hydro Project at **Revelstoke.** Our area membership meeting in February at Vernon received a good turnout. Four members in attendance were honoured with Long Service Pins. Meetings are scheduled for April in Kelowna, Salmon Arm, and Kamloops. A good turnout is anticipated.



Leroy Vollans
Business Representative

NorthernRegionReport

The work picture around Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, and Fort St. John has dropped by about 20% due to lower demand for natural gas.

In the Prince George area construction has slowed down with **Wayne Watson** and **W.I.C.** completing their projects from last year. We should know in May what kind of year we will have for construction. Keep in mind the mills closure is having an impact on our work and the northern economy.

In the good news, Alcan is one step closer to building their extension in Kitimat, it should employ members from the west coast and the north.



Richard Labonne
Business Representative