



In Solidarity

CSWU LOCAL 1611
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS
IN 2012

Spring 2010 Volume Eight 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.

NorthernReport

As I write this article the start of the construction season is upon us, after a mild winter season. Good news for the northwest **Rio Tinto Alcan** has released more money to build a storage building 50m x 250m long and will employ a hundred tradesmen at the peak of construction on this building. This is a positive sign that Rio Tinto will proceed with the new smelter, although still with financial restraint at this point.



Mat McGreish
Business Representative

Other work slated for this spring, in the northwest. **Wayne Watson Construction** has secured the credit union building in Vanderhoof. **Broadwater Industries** has work on a new dock in Prince Rupert. **Coquitlam Ridge Construction** has a contract to do rehabilitation work on a bridge just outside of Fort Fraser.

Commonwealth is bidding on a big job in Fort Nelson, which we will know about soon. And finally, the **Union has now lifted** the request to members not to go to work for **ICL, IDL, & SPL**. If you go to work with these companies it is ok, let us know and we will advise the O.E's, and your medical and pension remittance will be sent to our Plans. This will ensure that you can build/maintain benefits in your Union, Local 1611.

I would like to thank the membership in the **northwest** at this time for their support, since moving to the area. It is with support and commitment that we can build the Construction & Specialized Workers' Union in this region. I also look forward to representing the members in the **northeast** and appreciate their support and understanding.

Please feel free to phone me with any concerns or questions at my offices 250-632-2615 (Kitimat) or 250-561-9373 (Prince George) or you have any issues with your employer. If you see any other craft doing our work phone me and I will come out to the site and try to correct the situation. At this time I wish you and your family the best in 2010.

Okanagan&InteriorReport

With the **Olympics** behind us, things should hopefully get back on track after a very quiet winter. A fair amount of the **Stimulus money** is being directed towards the Road building industry by the Government this year. The competition from non-union and CLAC companies bidding against our **UNION** contractors is very strong. Hopefully with some creative bidding, our contractors will be successful in securing the work.

Emil Anderson Construction has picked up some work in the Golden area and are continuing their job on Highway 97A North of Vernon. **Brentwood Enterprises Ltd.** has a nice size job near Sorrento. **Dawson Construction Ltd.** has also picked up some work this spring near Clinton. All these jobs should be underway by mid March. **WIC** is working on the **Outma Squilax'w Cultural School** in Penticton.

There is a shutdown tentatively scheduled for 30-40 days starting late Spring at the **Domtar Pulp Mill in Kamloops**. Make sure that all certificates and dues are up to date if you are hoping to get onto this job. There were several courses held in Kamloops in late Feb in advance of the shutdown.

A Flagging course as well as a Stakes and Grades Course was held in Kelowna in early March.

2010 appears to be starting out fairly well. Hopefully, the trend will continue. Remember to keep your dues up to date and check in regularly. Have a Happy, Healthy Spring and Please Work Safe.



Leroy Vollans
Business Representative

KootenayReport

"Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found the exact amount of injustice and wrongdoing which will be imposed on them; and these will continue until they are resisted either with words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

~Frederick Douglass (1857)



Chuck Chatten
Kootenay Business Representative

We need to come together like the citizens or common folk (me and you) and the athletes did recently at the Olympic Games. The recent games in Vancouver showed all of us that the principle of solidarity is not dead. **WE ARE CANADIAN! WE CAN STAND OUR GROUND WITH PRIDE!** We can win battles. Working people need to stick together for their right to a decent living in the same fashion they supported Canadian athletes. This will not happen if we don't work together as a team. That means standing up for your job and letting your job steward or area rep. know about your ideas and suggestions or anything troubling you at or about your jobsite.

Negotiations for the **Kootenay/Interior Roadbuilding Agreement** are underway and across the table from the Teamster/Engineer/Labourer or Tri-Pac the employers are demanding 2004 rates and benefits or less so they can be competitive with the non-union or CLAC contractors. They are threatening to sell off their equipment and close their doors or go into housing developments or move and continue to work out-of-province. How much profit do they need to "grow their companies"??? We will hopefully be bringing proposals to the folks who worked in the industry during the past year or so some time soon.

It is early March and I'm pleased to say that old man winter was so kind that I've burned only one-half the usual amount of firewood. I'm pleased that recent meetings with the CEO of the Columbia Basin Trust and the Chair of the Board as well as Columbia Power Corp. folks tell us that every effort is being made to get the **Waneta Expansion Project** started. I'm pleased that we still have more than a dozen brothers and sisters working at **Mica Dam and the Revelstoke Dam**. I'm pleased that our contractors have successfully bid some local highway construction and paving, some maintenance work at Cominco, and some dam concrete restoration work on the Kootenay River. It is likely that a major shutdown scheduled for this fall at **Teck Metals** near Trail and the addition of Units 5 & 6 at **Mica Creek** will put a fair number of Local 1611 members to work later this year.

Hope to see you at our next Union meeting or job steward course or on the job sooner than later!!

Members meeting in
Tumbler Ridge.



DISPATCH NOTICE

- Please ensure that your residential and cell phone telephone numbers are up-to-date.
- If you are out-of-work you must check, at least once in every 90 day period or a computer generated program will drop you from the out-of-work list.
- Ensure your skills and tickets are noted in your file.

DISPATCH CONTACT NUMBERS 604.432.7833 OR 1.800.663.6588.

2010/2011: A Period of Transition

We are in a period of transition. While we are making numerous changes, most of them are positive, and our mandate will not change, to do the best we can on your behalf.

What are the main changes?

- **Dock & Shipyard Workers' Union Local 1204 is merging into our Union** (see information herein). We are very honoured and excited to represent these new members. We also appreciate that their Business Manager Rick Spencer has agreed to stay working for these new Local 1611 members, in the capacity as a business representative.
- **We have made a series of changes to the work portfolio's** of our Union representatives (see information herein). This enables us to weather the difficult economic times, and to position ourselves to take advantage of the upswing, which will come. It also allows us to invest more in organizing efforts.
- I want to express our deepest **thanks to Dal Chernask, Richard Labonne and Bob March** for their commitment, dedication and excellent work on behalf of the members of this Union.
- **We will have to enable some projects** and sectors in order to ensure that our signatory contractors remain busy, so more Local 1611 members will gain work. While no one, including the Union, likes enablements, we need to take creative steps to keep the industry vibrant.



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

One final Olympic note. For those members who do not know, our Union companies and Union members were heavily involved in the Olympics, including hundreds of security guards and traffic control members who worked during the Olympics, as well as hundreds of construction and roadbuilding members who worked on Olympic related work including the Whistler Sliding Centre, RAV (Canada) Line, Phase I & II of the Sea-to-Sky Highway, to name a few. **A gold medal effort by all.**

Take care. Above all please stay healthy and safe.

Welcome To The Members of the Dock & Shipyard Workers' Union, Local 1204

Our International Union (LIUNA) has now confirmed the merger of Local 1204 into Local 1611. We welcome the almost two hundred (200) members, as members of ours.

LIUNA's approval followed successful votes at two general membership meetings of both Local 1204 and Local 1611.

These skilled new Local 1611 members work at both Victoria Shipyard and Nanaimo Shipyard in a variety of tasks.

We will prominently feature these members, and their work, in our Christmas 2010 newsmagazine.

Once again welcome. We will do our best on your behalf.

Mark Olsen Business Manager presenting Union watch to Dale Bekar, President of the Pacific Group of Companies, in his office in December 2009. Congratulations and great thanks to Dale and the company, for the long term employment of our membership province wide.



Local 1611 Members at the Canexus Chemical Plant in North Vancouver.

Are You Ready to be Gouged by the BC Liberals?



Bruce Ferguson
President

You will recall that in my last report to you I talked extensively about how you were hoodwinked by the BC Liberals in the last election by deliberately not telling you that the HST would extend the PST tax base to a much broader range of goods and services. This new tax regime scheduled to commence July 1, this year, will transfer billions of tax dollars from the wallets of ordinary working men and woman to corporations and big business. Opposition to this tax grab has been mounting, led surprisingly by former Social Credit Premier Bill Van der Zalm. **Even Bill can smell a rat in this scandal.** Petitions to oppose this unjust tax need to gather at least 10% support in each and every provincial electoral district in B.C. in order to achieve a province wide ballot to determine if you support this Liberal tax grab.

I of course **urge you to support this petition** and get involved when the issue comes to your area. Go to www.fightHST.com for more information.

In the Christmas issue of our Union newsletter I reported that as a result of fallout of the U.S. and world wide economic meltdown Local 1611 experienced about a 20% decrease in hours worked in 2009 than was the case in 2008. We forecast that 2010/2011 will see only a slight improvement, and we will have to wait until 2012 for a move to full recovery.

Your Local Union, as a result has had to make some tough and difficult decisions regarding enabling some jobs, and in Union staff personnel.

Our members that work in ICI construction are aware that the current agreement expires April 30, this year and your Local Union has begun the process for a contract renewal. I am proud to report to you that Brother Mark Olsen has once again been elected Chair of the Bargaining Council of B.C. Building Trades Negotiating Committee in talks with our Employers, represented by the Construction Labour Relations Association of BC. (CLR).

The process began on February 11 with the Trades meeting to formulate key bargaining demands, and will complete in mid March, to finalize this first step in bargaining.

The next stage will be scheduled face-to-face talks with CLR. Brother Olsen will keep you fully informed as to any developments.

In closing please work safe and stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you at your next local area union meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have a Reciprocation Agreement in place with the Operating Engineers Local 115.

If you go to work for ICL, IDL or SPL please inform our Dispatch office at 604.432.7833 or 1.800.663.6588.

We will then inform the O.E's and they will send your medical and pension contributions to our Plans, so you can maintain or build your coverage with our Plans.

Important Info

I would like to say hi, to all our members and hope this year will be good to them. Following is a short report, and by the time you read this, not only are the Olympics over but probably the Para Olympics. This event has given the big money developers and corporations a broader view of what Vancouver is and the potential to make profit.

I hope this will lead to lots of work opportunity for our members down the road. As you know the major economic problems that started in 2008 are still with us today. The work picture is slow and I don't see it picking up for awhile.

The Federal Government stimulus money is now hitting the ground, let's hope our contractors are able to be successful in the bidding for this work. It is extremely difficult right now with contractors from across Canada and the US bidding on our work because of so few jobs out there.

Due to changes in personnel, I have resumed the traffic control/flagging sector portfolio as a Business Representative. I look forward to getting to know the members and the issues once again.

Hopefully the Organizing Department's efforts will lead to additional work opportunity for our members. If you want to help by becoming a salt, please contact Manuel Alvernaz, I know he would be pleased to talk to you.

New Union Portfolios EFFECTIVE MARCH 2010

Members need to be aware of these changes to personnel, and duties, March 2010. **What is new?**

Dean Homewood – Includes Contractor Development and First Nations Liaison.

Liana Biasutti – Organizer.

Rick Clarkson – Adds flagging and traffic control sector.

Gary Palmiere and Dan Klein – Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast – construction and roadbuilding sectors.

Nav Malhotra – Service Sector representative (assisted by Dennis Morgan).

Mathew Lust – Entire Vancouver Island – construction and roadbuilding sectors.

Mat McGreish – Entire Northern region. (assisted by Bruce Ferguson).

We appreciate the members support and understanding, as the Union reps adjust to their new or expanded duties.



Rick Clarkson
Secretary Treasurer

Vancouver Island Report



Mathew Lust
Vancouver Island
Business Representative

Hello everyone, 2009 is behind us now, and we are well into 2010. I have had some time to settle into the office and look forward to doing my best here now, and into the future.

The work picture for the South Island is still relatively slow, and with **Farmer Construction's** piece of the first phase of the Uptown Project being nearly complete there have been some lay-offs. However, the next phase of this project is on the horizon, and this is a large project. Best of luck to our Union contractors on landing this one. Otherwise **Campbell Construction** is continuing with a few projects as well, and trying to secure more work for our members on upcoming projects. In the utility sector **Chew Excavating** has kept many of our members employed, and is having continued success in securing further work for our people. As well things are warming up, and drying out for an early spring, and that means the road crews will be rolling out their equipment sooner, rather than late, Go Island!

Starting in March, I will be handling the entire Vancouver Island region. We will be maintaining all three offices, Victoria, Nanaimo and Campbell River. I look forward to getting to know all the members.

I would also like to remind all of our members to take advantage of our training programs. Especially if a person has gaps in employment take the time to enroll in available courses. The training is valuable, and the courses are provided free of charge.

Also a reminder to members that do get lay-off you must check into the Local to be placed on the unemployed list, and check back periodically to stay in touch.

In closing I would like to wish the best to all members and above all work and stay safe.



Farmer Construction crew at the Uptown Project. (l to r) Dave De Medeiros, Mario Da Luz, Sheldon Clint, Derek Zemanek, Paul Ruby and Jose Conreia.



Capilano Suspension Bridge for the construction of an overhanging boardwalk, scalers Mike Talarico and James Haldane drilling and blowing out holes, and working off ropes and spider cage for rock bolting and anchoring to stabilize the cliff face.



Members Peter Tazelaar operating the winch and brake while Joe Gauvin operates the airtrack controls at the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

Report

LOWER MAINLAND CONSTRUCTION & ROADBUILDING

As you all know, our companies have been at only 50% of capacity in late '08 and all of 2009. Our companies called for an emergency meeting with the Labourers' Union, Operating Engineers and Teamsters. They told us that if we could not do anything for them, that they would consider alternative means. The jobs that have been picked up by our companies are because of the enablements that the Unions granted. The market is now very competitive, there is an average approximately 20 companies bidding on all jobs available. **This is an extraordinary time that has taken extraordinary action, but we all look forward to the time when sanity will re-enter the market.** Once again, please let me know where your jobs are at, as companies don't always give us the information where they are.

ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

So far in 2010 (to March 1) Local 1611 has organized, certified and/or signed Collective Agreements with these companies;

- ABW Construction Inc. (from Seattle)
- Concrete Concepts Ltd.

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 ext.222 or his cell 604.323.4442. ALL INQUIRES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.



Dan Klein
Lower Mainland
Business Representative

Frontier Kemper crew working in North Vancouver, Twin Tunnel, (l to r) Mark Nooski, Shane Hawkins Job Steward, Justin Bruce and Chris Silvey.



Congratulations George Turi, General Manager of Cewe, at his retirement on February 3, 2010. George was presented with a Union watch, by (from left) Carl Strand former Business Manager of Local 1611, Dan Klein and Dean Homewood, Local 1611 Representatives.

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*